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Issue No 14

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GET READY FOR 2008 CUT-BACKS

TOUGH financial challenges and a massive tightening of the borough's budget belt is on the cards for the New Year.

The warning comes after the annual grant settlement made to it from the Government came in well below the rate of inflation.

It backs up Yourashford's exclusive story two months ago warning of slashes to vital services.

But council chiefs say they are determined to try and protect the bor-

■ BY ED HILL

ough's council tax payers from stumping up the shortfall.

The Revenue Support Grant that makes up 60 per cent of the of the council's budget will only increase by 1.3 per cent next year; significantly below the rate of inflation.

And council finance officers say that the cash shortfall could be as much as £624,000.

Council chiefs have identified several areas putting budgets under particular financial pressure. They include

the expansion of free bus travel for the over 60s, rising pension costs to its staff and the operating subsidy to the Ashford Leisure Trust, which includes the newly opened Stour Centre.

In addition to the Whitehall funding reduction, the council has also criticised the government for failing to take account of the growing population of the area.

They also say that because of a downturn in house building the council will not be collecting as much council tax income as had been expected.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO



LIGHTS OF OUR LIVES

IS YOUR house dazzling the neighbours this Christmas with a sparkling display? Then why not share it with thousands of our readers? We want to showcase the homes with the best illuminations in the pages of Yourashford.

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WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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CREAM OF THE CROP

Food firm scoops top award. See page 5

Win £100 for best TV clip

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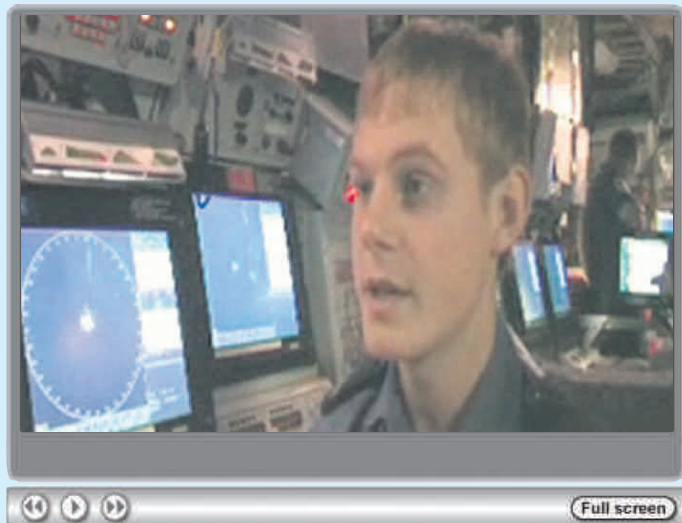
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TOP TV CLIPS



1 Kent's own Able Seaman Mark Wallis is on his way to serve in the Gulf on the Royal Navy's HMS Manchester. See **Community TV**



2 See trailers of all the latest Hollywood blockbusters, including Ben Kingsley as an alcoholic hitman in *You Kill Me*. See **Leisure TV**



3 Motoring editor Steve Loader test-drives a new 4x4. But can you guess the marque? See **Motors TV**

SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY EDITION FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

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Town's future is boosted by £22m grant

■ BY ED HILL

THE town has been given an early Christmas present in the form of a £22 million hand-out from central government.

The cash grant has been awarded to help boost economic development in the town and was secured by the council's regeneration arm, Ashford's Future.

To be paid out over the next three years, projects under consideration include new roads, environmental improvements to the town centre and possibly a new multi-storey car park.

Discussions as to exactly where the money should be spent will get underway on Thursday, when Ashford's Future stages its next board meeting.

News of the cash boost has been warmly welcomed as a vital step in enhancing the essential infrastructure projects to support the town's growth plans.

Paul Clokie, chairman of Ashford's Future and leader of the council, said: "The Ashford's Future board made a compelling case for Government support and showed we have a clear way forward for the growth of Ashford."

"We are pleased the Government has listened to our representations and plans to pay the money over as a 'block grant' rather than on a project-by-project basis."

"This will give the board the opportunity to allocate funding to those projects and infrastructure most likely to stimulate and enable housing growth and new jobs."

The grant from the Department of Communities and Local Government is given to areas such as Ashford that have been targeted for growth by the Government.

One of the projects the money could potentially be spent on is the Victoria



WELCOMED: Chairman of Ashford's Future Paul Clokie is pleased with the £22m allocation

Way Road – a new road south of the railway line designed to link Leacon Road with the existing Victoria Road. The road is part of the regeneration plans for the area which include the new learning campus.

Council spokesman Dean Spurrell said: "These projects are the ones the board is more likely to be spending the money on. They are designed to help economic development."

Last week local MP Damian Green highlighted to Yourashford the problems associated with the town's growth, when it came to the provision of vital services such as health and education.

Mr Clokie said: "It is essential that housing growth relates closely to the timely provision of essential services and amenities. It's about ensuring that the community as a whole is supported by the right infrastructure – transport, education, healthcare and green spaces. This funding support also demonstrates the Government's continued commitment to Ashford as a growth area."

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'We face some tough decisions'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Leader of the council, Paul Clokie, said: "There is no doubt that these factors contribute to a very difficult financial situation for the council and we face some tough decisions."

"Councils have known for some time the grant increase was likely to be the worst settlement for a decade."

"In real terms, this settlement means a reduction in funding at a time when costs for delivering services and public expectations are rising."

"The cost of the concessionary fares scheme is potentially a huge problem for many local authorities and I have outlined our deep concerns in a letter to the minister for local government."

"However, Ashford council has an excellent track record of facing up to tough financial challenges. We currently charge the lowest level of council tax of all the districts in Kent, which shows that taxpayers in the borough are getting excellent value for money. That situation is likely to continue, but it will not be an easy task."

"Accordingly, the council will maintain its focus on its commitment to taxpayers and while the challenge is a stiff one, officers and members are in the process of working together to identify measures to balance next year's budget. In particular we are focusing on where we can be more efficient, innovative and economical in our operations."

At a recent meeting of the executive committee the council decided to implement several policies to save money including a freeze on new recruitment. It has also implemented an efficiency plan which it hopes will save £654,900.

The final budget proposals will be finalised in February next year.

yourashford NEWS IN BRIEF

Park for free in the run up to Christmas

THERE'S no excuse not to head to the town centre this weekend to snap up those Christmas bargains, with car parking charges on Sunday scrapped.

The council has waived the fees in car parks in the heart of the town in a bid to boost trade for retailers in the run up to the big day.

Already thousands have taken advantage of the free parking which will continue every Sunday up to and including December 23.

Come and See Santa in his Grotto

He will be in his grotto 1st, 8th and 15th December and every day between Monday 17th and Monday 24th December.

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Why shop elsewhere?

Carbon-free homes plan causes a stir in community

Residents angry at choice of land for eco-friendly development

■ BY ED HILL

PIONEERING plans to build 19 eco-friendly homes – coined the Green Dream in Bybrook – have become a nightmare, local residents have claimed.

Council chiefs hope a patch of land on the corner of Beechholme Drive and Grasmere Road will be transformed by the £3 million project which will see 13 homes and six flats built, boasting a zero carbon footprint.

Those behind the project say the groundbreaking scheme would provide affordable housing for local people and enhance the environment. Rents would be about £80 a week.

But residents say the proposals have been built on false information.

They say the council agreed to provide the land to developers after a report claimed the site was used for dumping rubbish and abandoned cars. Neighbours say it is a tidy spot where children play football and they want it to remain a games area.



CONTROVERSIAL: This green space (described as being 'poor grade') has been earmarked for the development of 19 eco-friendly affordable homes (proposed designs, right)

Plans for the controversial development were put on public display by the Hyde Housing Association on Friday.

Patricia Boorman, chair of the Kennington Forum, said: "Papers prepared for the meeting described the area as 'currently poor grade open space which housing managers report is regularly used for dumping rubbish and occasionally abandoned cars'. This description was not recognised by residents who consider it to be a tidy, pleasant area."

Forum secretary Sandra Dunn said: "Eco homes are a laudable idea, but we are concerned that the density is much too high, and in the wrong place. Surely residents are entitled to a small patch of land near their homes for their children to play on? Especially as it has been used for some time and everyone is

happy with it continuing.

"Bybrook and Bockhangar already has less than half the recommended amount of open space and this might be contributing to an increase in anti-social behaviour. Police say the area is becoming the worst in Ashford."

"Council leader Paul Clokie told us no other site was available, yet a 19-hectare development is proposed on the old police college site at Grosvenor Hall which could easily accommodate the eco homes."

The Forum is seeking support from Ashford MP Damian Green.

Cllr Michael Claughton, who was at last weekend's public consultation in St Mary's Church Centre, Rylands Road, said: "The overwhelming opinion seems to be that this is a totally inappropriate site."

The development is subject to full council agreement, planning approval and a grant from the Housing Corporation. As the land is being disposed of for 'nil consideration' the final decision has to be approved by Hazel Blears, secretary of state for communities and local government. If planning permission is granted, work could start in autumn next year and be completed in spring 2009.

Hyde is investing £2.1 million into the project and has guaranteed the scheme will be zero-carbon and achieve the Government's new code for sustainable homes level four standard. Hyde hopes to achieve level six. There are currently no other level four affordable housing schemes anywhere in the south east, while a level six scheme would be unique in the UK.



Picture: AVEBURY INTERNATIONAL PLC

Three post offices set to close

THREE post offices in Ashford are to close as part of the restructuring process in Kent.

The three branches are in Beaver Road, Gladstone Road in Willesborough and a branch in Hythe Road.

Mr Chadha from the South Willesborough branch said: "I am very disappointed that this is the outcome but the shop will continue to trade."

"We used to get people collecting their pensions here but I have separate customers using the post office and those using the shop."

A total of 56 post offices will close across Kent.

Only two offices have been reprieved after the six week consultation process although two more have been added to the list.

Gary Herbert network development manager for Kent said: "These are difficult decisions which have not been taken lightly."

"We have considered very carefully all the comments made during the public consultation."

Ashford MP Damian Green described the process as a charade.

Take care with your MP3 player warns centre

PARENTS dashing out to snap up the latest MP3 music players for their children are being warned about the possible dangers such devices could cause to their hearing.

The caution comes from the Hearcare centre at Ashford's Specsavers store in County Square.

Karen Perry the audiologist at the store said: "An MP3 player is a great present at Christmas, however, prolonged use at high levels can present a real threat to your future hearing."

According to the World Health Organisation, listening to earphones at 85 decibels for over an hour at a time can damage hearing irreparably.

A national survey carried out by Deafness Research UK and Specsavers Hearing Centres, found that 14 per cent of people spend up to 28 hours a week listening to their personal music player.

They warn that an MP3 player on top volume can measure 112 decibels and beyond.

Although some MP3 players – such as Apple's market leading iPods – have limits on the sound levels in order to not contravene EU regulations.

Mrs Perry said: "If parents buy one for their children, it is advisable that they take the time to supervise use and ensure they listen to it at a safe level, for reasonably short periods of time."

She added: "If you can hear sound from the headphones a metre away, it is definitely too loud. Ensure you have a listening break of at least five minutes for every hour or use speakers instead of earphones."

"Some MP3 players have a noise safety level displayed on the machine, so look out for this when you buy."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Warning after spate of scrap metal thefts

A SPATE of metal thefts across the county has led police to issue a warning to residents asking them to remain vigilant.

Officers said the highly-organised thieves were likely to be working in groups to steal metals with a high scrap value.

In recent weeks copper piping and plumbing materials as well as lead tiles have been ripped off the roofs of schools, churches, houses and commercial buildings.

Strategic crime Chief Supt John Molloy said: "Be vigilant contact us with any information they have about any type of metal thefts."

Concert to raise funds for Romanian orphans

A CONCERT by the Marsh Warblers choir will be held at the Tenterden Baptist Church on Saturday.

The entertainment will be held in aid of the charity Cry in The Dark which supports work carried out in Romanian hospices.

The show begins at 7.30pm in the Zion Hall in the High Street. Refreshments will also be available.

Tickets cost £5 and can be bought from Travelux in the town or call 01580 765607.

Thieves race off with remote controlled cars

RADIO controlled cars worth £3,000 have been stolen from a garden centre in Cemetery Lane.

The theft took place overnight on November 26 at the Bybrook Barn garden centre.

Police believe the cars may be destined for sale in pubs and markets in the run up to Christmas, and are warning the public to be wary if offered such items cheaply.

If you have information regarding the theft of these radio controlled cars, contact South Kent police on 01303 289180.

£5,000 of benches are stolen from garden

CROOKS have made off with thousands of pounds worth of garden furniture after a raid on the grounds of a house in Bethersden.

Three oak benches, worth a total of £5,000 were taken from the garden on the night of November 25, police revealed this week.

A number of plant pots containing apricots and roses were stolen as well as two oak barrels worth £110 each.

Anyone with information regarding the theft can call police on 01303 289180.

Review will try to revive town centre stalls

We're in the market for change

■ BY ED HILL

A MAJOR review of the borough's two main markets is underway in a bid to boost their flagging fortunes.

The council says it is determined to ensure the traditional market places in the town and Tenterden remain vibrant and viable.

One suggestion involves moving Ashford's main market to one central point in the High Street – and reducing the number of days the market operates.

Meetings between council officials, stallholders and town centre representatives will take place, with talks including discussing the option of employing a market operator to run both.

Neil Bell, portfolio holder for environmental services at Ashford council said: "With rising costs and a decline in the Ashford market we need to look at ways of revitalising the market and ensuring its viability for the future."

"We can assure people nothing is written in stone and we welcome the views of current

stall holders and the Town Centre Partnership.

"There are currently no plans to alter the operation of Tenterden's market which is starting to thrive and is already a vibrant place to be."

Viv Kenny, from the Ashford Town Centre Partnership, has welcomed the review and believes it could breathe new life into the town.

Improving

She told Yourashford: "Our view is Ashford is an historic market town and should be preserved as such. However, if it is not working as it should at the moment then we need to look into ways of making it work."

"We want to see ways in which it can be upgraded and expanded. Having had public meetings with local businesses I believe one way of improving the market would be to move it to the Lower High Street."



BARGAINS: Traditional markets have historic roots

"There you have a much bigger area to create a bigger space."

"It might be possible to have a market canopy or market space. We could have a covered area for bands or seating. We could even have concerts and events in the evening."

"We have to encourage something that encourages more people into the town centre."

The public will be able to comment on the proposals on the council's website in the New Year.



Regenerating trust

CHILDREN from across Stanhope got in the festive mood at a special community arts project staged by one of the developers transforming the estate.

Moat Housing Association is one of the drivers of the seven-year redevelopment programme underway to rejuvenate the area – and in an effort to help develop a vibrant and sustainable community they staged the event at the Stanhope Parish Rooms.

The popular event was overseen by local artist Sarah Smith who helped youngsters create Christmas cards and costumes.

Graeme Bosley community development manager for Moat said: "The idea is to help engage with the children at a really young age. With older children there is not that level of trust. Hopefully this helps to build sustainable communities."

Sarah Smith said: "These things help local people get to know each other. Art is a good way to do these things because everyone has to get involved."

Stanhope is undergoing a £150m regeneration which involves the refurbishment of 325 homes and the replacement of seven blocks of flats with 442 new quality homes.

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Picture: ED HILL

WINNER: Sally Newall of Simply Ice Cream with the products that helped land her an award

Ice cream firm scoops tasty national award

AN ICE cream company which employs just one member of staff has whipped up a sensation after beating off stiff competition from across the UK to land a top food award.

Simply Ice Cream, which is based in Bonnington, near Aldington, scooped the local food category at the Quality Food Awards, held recently at the Battersea Evolution centre in London, which is designed to 'reward excellence in the food industry'.

The ice cream firm's chief, Sally Newall, who only started the business two-and-a-half-years ago, has already had to turn down the advances of major supermarkets looking to snap up her range.

She told Yourashford: "It was a bit daunting as there were more than 800 people there."

"They thought it highly amusing that I only had one member of staff because they are used to dealing with thousands. I think it is good that a small company can compete with products from the large ones."

The businesswoman began the firm after feedback from clients who used her outside catering company.

She said: "We did catering for weddings

■ BY ED HILL

and other private functions. We used to make our own ice cream for the events and people used to love it so much that they thought we must have bought it in.

"Two years ago we decided to test the water and see if we could start manufacturing it for local shops and farmers markets."

Now the range is sold at markets across the county and in London.

Mrs Newall said: "We only use natural ingredients; there are no preservatives or additives in it. It is a very indulgent product. We use lots of double cream in the recipe."

"We source as many of the ingredients locally if we can. For example, this year we have used local strawberries and blackcurrants."

Another Ashford firm was involved in the ice cream's success. Tangerinemoon based in Charing was praised for its design of the slick packaging. The judges said it was "clean bright and classy".

Mrs Newall has been approached by some major supermarkets but says she is careful about losing control of her product: "The trouble when big supermarkets get involved is that they have difficulty in getting round the concept of what local produce means and how it is produced."

Watch ice cream queen in action

WANT to see the secret behind Simply Ice Cream's award-winning success? Then simply log-on to our free, broadband TV, website.

We visited Sally Newall at her home to talk to her about her company and got to see her adding some of the special ingredients which go into her home-made ice cream.

Simply Ice Cream was described by judges at the recent Quality Food Awards as "divine, superb and faultless".

To watch Mrs Newall create her tasty treat log-on today.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Giant voice needed to bring Flora to life in film

IS YOUR voice powerful enough for a giant?

If so you could star as Flora the Giant in a film promoting the work of the Singleton Environment Centre.

Flora – created 18 months ago to join other tall creations to help showcase developing communities across the county – will appear in Flora's Tale, a short film about Singleton's landmarks and the centre.

The centre, a £1.7m eco-friendly building using local and recycled building materials, sustainable energy and recycled water, will be an environmental and community resource and visitor attraction. It is due to open in the spring.

Now the council wants to find someone with suitable vocal talents for the film.

Auditions take place at the former Sugar Shack store in County Square on Saturday, December 15. A voice will also be required to narrate the film.

A panel of judges and Flora herself will judge the auditions between 10am and 4pm.

Homes proposal looks set for rejection

A PLAN to build 14 new homes in the grounds of the Croft Hotel in Kennington looks set to be rejected by council chiefs.

The council's planning inspector has recommended the application be rejected because of fears over extra traffic problems on the A28 Canterbury Road. It was also suggested further studies into the environmental impact of the scheme should take place.

It would have seen the demolition of an existing bungalow and hotel rooms to make way for the mini-estate.

The application, made by the Garden of England Group Ltd, will go before the planning committee on Wednesday night.

Lorries stack up on M20 as weather stops ferries

OPERATION Stack reared its head again last Wednesday as severe weather restricted ferry crossings in the Channel.

The result saw the M20 return to acting as a make-shift car park for lorries bound for the coast, with the motorway closed between junctions 11 and 12.

High winds left ferry operators cutting their services to France and creating the lengthy backlog of traffic.

Other traffic was then directed on to the A20. The motorway was reopened at midnight after the situation eased.

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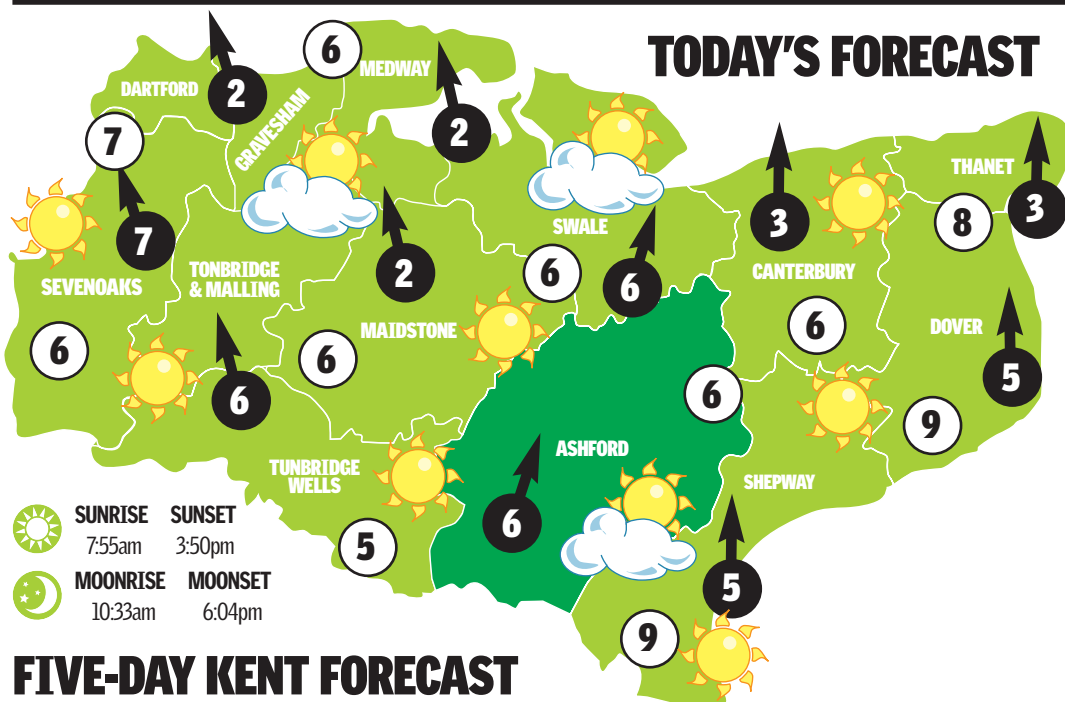
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NEWS IN BRIEF



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	4.15pm	5.5m
	Sunday	5.03pm	5.4m
Dover	Saturday	2.11pm	6.0m
	Sunday	3.03pm	5.8m
Dungeness	Saturday	1.59pm	6.7m
	Sunday	2.50pm	6.6m
Ramsgate	Saturday	2.57pm	4.5m
	Sunday	3.47pm	4.4m
Sheerness	Saturday	4.03pm	5.3m
	Sunday	4.51pm	5.2m
Whitstable	Saturday	4.02pm	4.9m
	Sunday	4.52pm	4.8m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	9°C	Madrid	12°C
Athens	17°C	New York	3°C
Barcelona	16°C	Paris	9°C
Beijing	0°C	Rome	13°C
Bombay	31°C	Sydney	22°C
Cape Town	23°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	8°C	Tokyo	11°C
Gibraltar	16°C	Vancouver	0°C
Hong Kong	24°C	Warsaw	3°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	23°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	5°C	3°C	4°C	4°C	5°C	Gravesend	6°C	3°C	5°C	5°C	5°C
Canterbury	5°C	5°C	5°C	5°C	5°C	Maidstone	5°C	5°C	5°C	5°C	5°C
Chatham	5°C	5°C	3°C	5°C	5°C	Ramsgate	4°C	5°C	4°C	4°C	4°C
Dartford	6°C	4°C	4°C	5°C	5°C	Rochester	5°C	5°C	3°C	5°C	5°C
Dover	5°C	3°C	4°C	4°C	5°C	Sittingbourne	5°C	4°C	5°C	5°C	5°C
Faversham	5°C	3°C	4°C	5°C	5°C	Sevenoaks	5°C	1°C	5°C	4°C	5°C
Folkestone	5°C	5°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	Tonbridge	5°C	1°C	5°C	5°C	5°C
Gillingham	6°C	3°C	5°C	5°C	5°C	Tun Wells	5°C	1°C	5°C	5°C	5°C

Prison overcrowding keeps couple out of jail

A JUDGE has claimed prison overcrowding prevented him from sending a couple to jail.

Christopher and Susan Thwaites, of Allen Field in Ashford, were found guilty of fraudulently claiming nearly £8,000 of housing, council tax and income support benefits.

During the trial it was revealed that Mrs Thwaites had claimed more than £6,000 of benefits between December 2003 and January 2006, despite living with Mr Thwaites who was being employed as a carpet fitter. He had claimed more than £2,000 of income support which he was not entitled to.

The two were sentenced at Maidstone Crown court on December 6.

Suspended

Judge Statman sentencing the couple said: "I have no doubt the offences pass the custody threshold. The gravity of the offences is such that you have taken monies that you were not entitled to, therefore there was less for other legitimate claimants."

"The offences warrant an immediate prison sentence, however given the current state of the prison population there is no useful purpose in sending you to jail. Therefore I will issue a suspended sentence order."

Mrs Thwaites was sentenced to six months imprisonment for each of the offences to run concurrently, suspended for 12 months.

Mr Thwaites was sentenced to two months imprisonment, suspended for 12 months, and ordered to carry out 80 hours community service.

The couple have been ordered to pay back the money.

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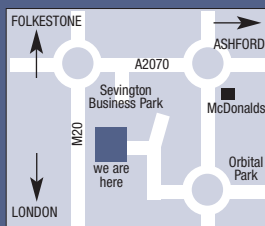
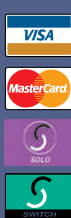
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QUESTION & ANSWER

GILLIAN LINES



Q & A

Gillian Lines is chair of the Ashford Twinning Association. Here she talks to **ED HILL** about the benefits of joining the association, why more youngsters should join, and her views on the changing face of the town

Q How long have you been connected with Ashford?

A I have lived in Ashford for 25 years. I was born in what was known as Ceylon but is now known as Sri Lanka.

Q How long have you been involved with the Twinning Association?

A I have been involved since 1992. I got involved with a friend at first. I joined not as a member but just to help with getting people on the coaches. I joined officially in 2001.

Q What is the purpose of the Twinning Association?

A It is the best way to get to know about a place and the people who live there. We meet a person in their home which is a comfortable environment. It means people can communicate with one another but not in an official way. It means that they can say what they like. You can see how other people live in other countries. You might for example go to the theatre with them and just get to know their town. The good thing is that every family is different with different interests and homes; so every trip is a little different.

You have to be the sort of person that likes meeting new people and you have to be comfortable with the fact that you will be asked to let people stay with you.

Although you can be a member if you don't have a home. You can help in all sorts of ways such as helping with driving for example.

Q How do Ashford's twin towns of Bad Munstereifel in Germany and Fougères in France compare to the town?

A Generally in Europe people seem to have more space in their houses. Bad Munstereifel is very different from Ashford. It is really a large village. The population is about 8,000. It is a very picturesque tourist town in the Eifel Valley between Cologne and Bonn. It is beautiful and clean. Many of the local people have to work at the larger nearby towns. Fougères which is in Brittany is more like Ashford. It has a population of about 70,000. It has a mixture of everything from retail to manufacturing and transport.

Q How many members does the association have?

A At the moment we have 67 members, mainly couples but we are always trying to attract new members. I think younger people are put off because they think they have to have somewhere where people can stay but this is not necessarily the case. Our youngest member is 21.

Q What do you think of the changes that are happening to Ashford?

A I think places have to change. We have to accommodate the new population; nowhere

can stay the same for a hundred years. So I don't think you can criticise the town for that. I do think it is a shame that the train has stopped to Brussels, although we do not actually use it regularly ourselves. We have older people in the group, so lugging large amounts of luggage is not so easy on the train.

Q What do you think of modern technology?

A I use the computer a lot. It is fantastic for what I need to do. I would not say I am any kind of expert. These things do seem to take up more of my time.

Q Did you have any childhood heroes?

A I had many sporting heroes when I was growing up. I have always loved music. I studied piano at the Royal Academy. Although now I am in Ashford I have not gone to so many concerts. I used to teach pupils at home but it can be a difficult instrument to teach because the piano is such a large instrument. It is difficult for parents to commit to buying one. You can use electric organs but they are not really the same thing. You have to get the technique right in the hands and fingers and for that you really have to use a real piano.

You may laugh but I always liked Liberace because he was actually a fine player. I know his shows were over the top but they were enjoyable. I saw him at the London Palladium.

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1 Waltzing with Gordon Giltrap

Thanet residents Ian Sharpe and Victoria Lawrence are UK champion amateur ballroom and Latin American dancers, and have appeared in TV shows and ads – they were filmed dancing to Mrs Singer's Waltz, a tune composed and performed by famed guitarist Gordon Giltrap.



2 Your roving puppet reporter

Meet the county's newest roving reporter – Ken Tishman. Although he's a puppet, Ken has strong views about foreign criminals behind bars at Canterbury prison, the cost of public transport, and how elderly people will be hit by the high cost of heating their homes.



3 Confessions of a DJ

Inspired by the popular films of Invicta FM radio presenters' confessions on Community TV, our own sweet-toothed rapper EmCee Flapjack has some of his own secrets he wants to get off his chest. If you've got a story to share, why not upload it to yourkenttv.co.uk?



4 Unique gorilla is born free

This footage shows the first gorilla born in the wild to reintroduced parents. The film has been released by the Aspinall Foundation, based at Howletts wildlife park near Canterbury. The parents of the baby, who was born on October 5, are wild-born orphans.



SPORT TV



Ebbsfleet United manager says referees should get hi-tech help

BUSINESS TV



Ice-cream maker explains how she won a food award

PROPERTY TV



This week's focus is on the Medway housing market

LEISURE TV



Film editor Thelma Schoonmaker on working with Martin Scorsese

MOTORS TV



Motoring guru Steve Loader test drives Hyundai's new i30

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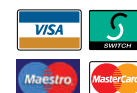
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Lorry lenses to prevent side-swiping

■ BY NICK AMES

MOVES to reduce the problem of foreign lorries 'blind-siding' motorists on the county's major highways are now in place, following Government action to hand out stick-on safety lenses to help drivers see when overtaking.

The threat to the county's drivers is most intense on the M20, M2 and A2, where the high-sided trucks come from the Continent and pass through to other parts of the UK.

It comes from the juggernauts having the steering side on the left, which means the driver can fail to see cars when pulling out to overtake – sometimes with fatal results to unwary motorists.

Scheme

In 2006, Kent police figures taking into account the M20, M2, M25, M26, A2 and A20 showed 45 instances of accidents where death or injury occurred involving Continental trucks.

A pilot scheme has seen the special lenses – given out at ports in both Kent and across the Channel – reduce the rate of accidents by 59 per cent in recent months.

Now a further 90,000 of the devices are to be given out in a bid to reduce instances even further.

They come complete with instructions in

English, French, German, Spanish, Polish and Dutch, and adhere to the passenger side window to widen the driver's field of vision and cut out the dangerous blind spot.

The so called 'Fresnel lenses' are small wafer-thin sheets of flexible plastic – about 10 inches by 12 inches – with a moulded optical lens that sticks to flat glass.

A Transport Department spokesman said: "Nine per cent of all HGVs in accidents are foreign-registered. Of these 1,117 HGVs, 982 were left-hand drive and weighed more than 7.5 tonnes.

"Some 409 foreign-registered left-hand drive HGVs were changing lane to the right at the time of the accident and 14 were changing lane to the left."

Speaking ahead of a visit to the Channel Tunnel Lorry Park in at Ashford, Road Safety Minister Jim Fitzpatrick said: "Side-swiping is an issue we are determined to tackle.

"It's important all truckers, whether from Britain or overseas, are able use our roads safely.

"However, many drivers here don't realise that left-hand drive lorries can't easily see a car overtaking them on the right, such as on a motorway."

"This has resulted in more than 400 side-swipe incidents in 2006 alone. As well as being dangerous, these incidents cause delays and congestion."

Officials at the Department for Transport said all trucks had a blind spot alongside the cab on their passenger side, which can



ON THE BLIND SIDE: New safety lenses will help lorry drivers from the Continent see UK drivers more easily

cause cars alongside to disappear from the driver's view.

A spokesman said: "This is a particular problem for left-hand drive trucks operating in the UK, when they change lanes to overtake. The lenses offer drivers of left-hand drive vehicles a wider field of vision through the passenger window."

The trial was conducted by the Highways Agency, the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and the Immigration Service.

A total of 40,000 stick-on Fresnel lenses were distributed free of charge at three French ports to drivers of left-hand drive lorries coming to the UK.

Pfizer celebrates HIV drug with £25,000 fund

TO celebrate the launch of its ground-breaking new HIV medicine, Pfizer has set up a £25,000 fund to help community groups across the county.

Maraviroc is the latest drug to be discovered and developed by the pharmaceutical giant's research and development scientists based at Sandwich.

The first new oral class of HIV medicines in the last decade has been granted regulatory approval in Europe and the US, and will go on the market under the trademark name Celsentriq.

To mark the breakthrough, Pfizer aims to support 25 Kent-based community projects improving health and the wellbeing of people across the county.

Each accepted project will receive £1,000 to spend on computer hardware or software.

Pfizer teams have raised the money for the Computers for the Community Fund by recycling IT equipment no longer needed at its Sandwich R&D centre.

Discovery

Dr Annette Doherty, the plant's research and site leader, said: "At Pfizer we understand the value of technology and its importance in advancing medical research to deliver new, innovative medicines for patients.

"It is the expertise of our world-class scientists taking advantage of the capabilities of IT that led to the discovery of maraviroc.

"Lack of IT resources, however, can pose a stumbling block for many organisations. That's why we're offering to help 25 Kent not-for-profit projects by funding new IT equipment."

She added: "Pfizer plays an active part in communities across the county and we want to celebrate our success in developing the new medicine by giving practical support to local projects that share our passion for improving health and wellbeing."

To apply for the fund organisations will need to demonstrate they are based in Kent and delivering projects in the county, operating as not-for-profit, and aiming to improve health and wellbeing.

Write to Christine Jenkins, Community Affairs, Pfizer Ltd, IPC 223, Sandwich, CT13 9NJ, or email christine.yjenkins@pfizer.com, for an application form before January 31.



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Celebrating one hundred years of good support

WHEN choosing fancy underwear for yourself or female friends and relatives, spare a thought for the Victorians.

The bra celebrates its centenary this year and the undergarment has come a long way since the uncomfortable supports worn in the 1900s. Evidence of early breast supporters can be seen in ancient artwork, but the word brassiere first appeared in the pages of Vogue in 1907. The average woman now buys five every year and the UK industry alone is valued at more than one billion pounds.

Bag yourself a bargain and help save the planet

MARKS and Spencer has a stylish solution to the carrier bag crisis.

The retail giant has produced four 100 per cent organic cotton shopping bags, two of which are adorned with stunning famous faces – fashion icon Twiggy and supermodel Erin O'Connor.

Priced at £2.50, the reusable bags are part of the chain's commitment to reducing the number of free plastic bags handed out by 33 per cent by 2012. M&S claims it will not make any profit from sales of the new models.

Cork-popping good fun after a trip to Asda

MAKE your Christmas celebrations go with a bang this year thanks to a corking bargain from Asda.

The supermarket will be selling legendary Dom Perignon champagne for a sparkling £30, almost 70 per cent less than other stores. It's a favourite among the rich, with the 1999 vintage selling for more than £200 at posh hotels.

With a limited number of bottles being stocked only at Asda Supercentres and selected stores, connoisseurs will have to be quick before the deal fizzles out.

Supermarkets awarded for their compassion

COMPASSION In World Farming has been rating the UK's supermarkets for their animal welfare policies.

Marks and Spencer came top because it has only sold free-range eggs for the last ten years. The company also recently stopped selling white veal, earning it the compassionate supermarket crown.

Sainsbury beat Tesco, Morrisons and Asda to be best volume retailer, as well as most improved supermarket. But CIWF revealed that 90 per cent of UK-sold chickens are still factory farmed.

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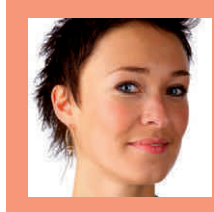
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WOMEN'S SPOTLIGHT

FANCY THIS?
Natasha, 21, 5'8", WLTm Mr Right. Single mum of 1, like shopping, clubbing, relaxing... Why don't we do these things together? We can if you call! Box 901622

LOOK ME UP
24yr old single mother of 2, very bubbly and fun to be with, looking for happy-go-lucky guy to show me a good time. Box 432026

TAKE HEART
Crystal, 24, brunette, blue eyes, petite, likes music, art, films, swimming, country walks, WLTm friendly guy for friendship maybe more. Box 432235

LIVELY UP YOURSELF
Lively female, 26, 5'12, brown hair, green eyes, size 10, single mum, enjoys most things, seeks genuine, laid-back guy for fun, friendship and more. Box 428555

LOVE TO LAUGH
Full-time mum, 26, loves pubs, clubs, cinema, family days out, GSOH, likes socialising, relaxing, looking for honest, loyal, fun, romantic person who's a N/S. Box 900347

DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN?
Susan, 33, long hair, hazel eyes, tanned, enjoys the usual things in life, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 429879

RING MY BELLE!
Hi, I'm Annabelle, 32, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, divorced, 2 children, WLTm a tall, local man, enjoys sport, shopping and relaxing. Tonbridge. Box 420609

CANTERBURY TALE
Single mum of 2, 32, would like to meet someone kind, caring and considerate, for nights in/out, cinema. Box 406670

AFRICAN ADVENTURE
African lady, 33, brown eyes, likes socialising, music, pubs, cinema, seeks male for friendship and more. Box 413128

LESSONS IN LOVE
Loving, caring, black African female, 33, school teacher, WLTm caring, honest, loving, open, professional man, 35-50 with good values in life, for something meaningful. Box 422460

TRY NEW THINGS
Mum of 1, I'm 5'4, blonde hair, slim, young looking, 34yrs old, I'm caring, honest, with a GSOH, I like keep-fit, cinema, dancing, days out. Box 431559

R U THE 1?
Outgoing, funny, young-looking female, 34, 5'13, brown hair/eyes, East Peckham, nr Tonbridge, seeks caring, loyal male for friendship/more. Box 433107

YOURS FOREVER!
Active, affectionate female, 35, 5'13, blonde, blue eyes, likes cinema, walking, cycling, swimming, wrestling, WLTm tall, dark & handsome bloke. Box 430932

TRUST MATTERS
Independent, professional female, 35, 5'7, fit, GSOH, enjoy travelling, cinema, looking for a like-minded, honest and loyal male to share life with. Box 901774

THE EYES HAVE IT
Attractive, trendy, outgoing, warm female, 30, dark brown eyes are a big feature, curvy but slim, like country pubs etc. WLTm spontaneous male for LTR. Box 403299

SECURE FUTURE
Honest, caring lady, attractive, from Tunbridge Wells, 37, hazel eyes, curvy, 5'16, with a GSOH, many interests, clubs, cooking, cosy nights. Looking for stocky male, 35-45. Box 424364

MISSING MALE COMPANY
Chatty female, 36, 5'4", single mum, blonde, slim, likes pubs, clubs, going out, having fun, seeks male, for fun nights out and giggles. Rochester. Box 372869

THE WIT TO WOO!
Kent female, 39, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152862

FUTURE PERFECT
38yr old lively, down 2 earth female, GSOH, enjoy all life's pleasures, looking for relationship Box 920397

LOVING TOUCH
39yr old single mum, own house, 5'7", brown hair, seeking a kind-hearted man for companionship. Box 433637

GET IT TOGETHER
Kind, caring, spiritual lady, 39, 5'4", average build, hazel puppy-dog eyes, brown hair, looking for genuine, honest guy, non-smoker, friendship first. Box 895694

NEVER SAY NEVER
Decent 36yr old female, medium build, fair hair, 5'6", likes cinema, eating & having fun, seeks like-minded male, 36-40, for friendship first. Box 739664

NOT FOOTBALL CRAZY
Divorced, affectionate lady, 40, large build, 5'6", love staying in, cinema, looking for a thoughtful male to share good things in life, leading to LTR. Box 430332

LOVE TO MEET YOU
Kind woman, 42, outgoing, happy-go-lucky, sometimes shy, I like gardening, socialising, travel, walks. Looking for happy, fun fella. Aylesford Box 428464

TAKE A CHANCE
Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156

FOOTBALL FANATIC
Deal-based lady, 43, divorced, brunette, green eyes, 5'10, likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket. Box 430384

A FINE ROMANCE
Pleasant female, 43, medium/large build, blue/green eyes, grown up children, beach walks, relaxing, reading, winning, seeks sincere male with GSOH, for LTR. Box 429071

READ ALL ABOUT IT
Petite, sincere woman, 44, wavy blonde hair, blue eyes, size 10, loves beach walks, animals, DIY, swimming, travelling, WLTm N/S man to share things with. Box 429682

STOP PRESS!
Friendly, N/S female, 44, medium build, long hair, WLTm N/S male. 44-55 for fun, laughter, possible relationship. Ramsgate. Box 903566

DON'T PASS ME BY
Friendly, bubbly, fun-loving woman, 45, 5'4", GSOH, enjoys socialising, pubs, music, eating in/out, own home/car, smoker, looking for honest man 44-55, who enjoys life. Box 823441

ROMANCE IS ALIVE
Divorced, lively mum, 35, GSOH, I enjoy time with my family and friends, cinema, good food, beach walks, seeks male for honesty, love and romance. Box 813930

NICE SMILE???
Single 36yr old female, like most things in life, very loving and caring, 5'5", cuddly build, good personality, seeking a gentle, considerate man. Box 431286

SEIZE THE DAY
Loving female, 36, 5'14, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

COULD IT BE MAGIC?
Single mum of 2, 37, caring and loving, 5'14, slim, blonde hair, blue eyes, GSOH, enjoys most things in life. Box 898868

NEW TO THE AREA
Happy, bubbly, positive female, 37 years old, outgoing, loving, caring, loyal, quite spiritual, into dance music, trance, cooking, the countryside, looking for soul mate. Box 433539

HOPING FOR MORE
36yr old single lady, long blonde hair, big blue eyes, slim, 5'17, looking for a guy who's caring, honest, for TLC and maybe more. Box 902011

THE FULL TREATMENT
36yr old nurse, enjoys fun and laughter, travel, nights in/out, music, dancing, reading, theatre. Seeking man for company, maybe more. East Kent Box 912176

YOUNG-AT-HEART
Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, with curves, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks exciting, fun male for friendship/relationship Box 901893

BE ORIGINAL!
Sincerely, honesty, and intelligence, is that just too much to ask for? With a hint of cheekiness, I'm 46 from the Maidstone area. Box 156956

KNOW HOW TO TREAT A LADY?
Blonde haired, attractive female, 46, 5'14, slim, GSOH, seeking good-looking, slim, kind, trendy male, 35-45, with a GSOH, and fantastic personality. Sheerness Box 432618

STIMULATING COMPANY
Bubbly, caring, single mum, 46, WLTm nice male, for good conversations, company, and maybe more. Box 396829

READY TO START AGAIN
Hi, I'm Sue, 48, 5'2", dark hair/eyes, divorced, hard-working, WLTm compatible male, stocky build, for good times, possibly LTR. Box 432992

ALL THAT I NEED
Young-looking, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving & outgoing, N/S, GSOH, love music, holidays, going out & staying in, seeks similar man, 42-50. Aylesford. Box 428833

BRIGHTON UP MY WORLD
Loving and loyal 49yr old female, GSOH, enjoys walking, countryside, cinema, theatre, pubs, restaurants, music, travel, seeks sincere and loving male between 48-56 for friendship. Box 909974

CANTERBURY CONNECTION
Attractive, blonde woman, 5'4", 49, enjoys the gym, cooking, cinema, theatre, travel and restaurants, seeks male for friendship. Box 388091

FEEL THE MAGIC
Slim female, 51, long dark brown hair, brown eyes, 5'16, well groomed, very easygoing and tactile, GSOH, enjoys socialising, nights in/out, eating out, cinema walks. Box 434052

EVENING PRIMROSE
Primrose, 51, divorced with 3 children and 2 grandchildren. I'm 5'12, with dark hair, looking for someone for companionship. Box 433580

ARE YOU LONESOME TONIGHT?
Loyal, bubbly and affectionate, attractive lady, 51, dark hair, enjoy clubs, nights in, love animals, seeking a like-minded gent for happiness. Box 433585

LOVE TRAIN
Young-looking 51yr old woman, seeking a kind, genuine man, between 48-51, for fun and friendship, maybe romance. Box 432406

LOVE IS IN THE HAIR!
Sue, 51, slim, blue eyes, brunette, ladies hairdresser, looking for someone special. How about you? Box 431904

AM I THE 1?
48yr old divorcee, 5'5", dark hair, hazel eyes, 5'10, likes going out, pubs, clubs, days/nights out. WLTm a man who would like to share some good times. Box 901027

TAKE IT AS RED-HEAD
Female, 51, 5'6", attractive, redhead, green eyes, seeking professional, male soulmate, 45-55. West Kent. Box 477686

COUNTING ON YOU
Lonely, honest lady, 52, enjoy walks, cycling, travel, WLTm sociable gent to share interests and possibly leading to LTR. Box 399420

NEED COMPANY
Blonde female, 54, 5'15, cuddly, seeking friendship, with someone who can make me laugh. Fed up of being alone. Smardham Box 433682

DIG DEEPER
Canterbury lady, 56, recently divorced, looking for a genuine relationship. I like gardening, home life, going out, seeking a male companion. Box 428242

I DREAM OF DOMESTICITY!
Attractive, homely, caring 55yr old lady, 5'2", slim/medium build, GSOH, good conversationalist, looking for special person to share life's ups and downs with. Faversham. Box 406928

EFFERVESCENT ELEGANCE
Young-at-heart, lively, sociable lady, 56, 5'6", blue eyes, blonde, GSOH, WLTm understanding, down-to-earth gent, for company, maybe romance. Box 403745

NOT ASKING FOR MUCH
Fun loving, bubbly, tactile lady, 50s, enjoys the good life, holidays and cosy nights in, I'm voluptuous & looking for a real man. Box 903560

PLANT THE SEEDS
Classy, intelligent, divorced, attractive lady, 59, slim & active; enjoys travel, walking holidays, sport, gardening. WLTm sincere, intelligent gentleman initially for friendship, maybe more. Box 910138

NEW FOUNDATIONS
Solvent, cuddly female, 59, 5'1", love the countryside, foreign travel, seeks happy, solvent male, 50s-62, for affection and TLC. Box 394179

THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT
Widowed woman, 61, no ties, positive outlook, kind nature with GSOH, like the usual things and would like to find a male counterpart. Box 431210

KEEPEE DANCING!
Brunette lady, 61, looking for a LTR, friendship first, any age considered. Interests: dancing, walking, socialising, cuddling! Margate. Box 432245

EXPERIENCE ALL THAT'S BEST
Divorced lady, 61, N/S, medium build, loves movies, classic music, comedy, restaurants, cooking, gardening, reading, driving, seeks tactile man, for something special. Box 424898

LADY IN WAITING
Cuddly, loving lady, 64, who loves nice conversations, staying in, winning/dining, loves animals, gardening, WLTm considerate, faithful gent for companionship. Box 427579

TAKE MY BREATH AWAY
Very caring, young at heart, black lady, 63, varied interests, GSOH seeking a N/S, caring gentleman, 58-69, to share happy times. Box 424122



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LIMITED OFFER
Caring female, 70, 5'17, blonde with blue eyes, slim, widowed, very young & active, likes playing cards, socialising, oil painting, animals, seeks male counterpart. Box 432568

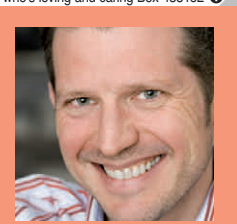
Women seeking women

SIZZLING!
Sociable female, 24, 5'12, long hair, hazel eyes, enjoys the beach, cooking, barbecues, clubs, pubs, looking for female mates, maybe more. Box 428658

LOVE TO LAUGH
Loving, young 25yr old female with a kind heart and passion for life, short hair, blue eyes, like music, socialising, seeks a like-minded female. Box 431117

FUN 2 BE WITH
Hi, I'm an attractive 39 yr old feminine female, looking for a caring female for friendship and fun. Box 899207

PASSIONATE SCORPIO
Cuddly, buxom female, 46, blue eyes, very feminine, loves music, animals, reading, writing, stars, very genuine, meals in/out, seeking boyish female, who's loving and caring Box 433152



MEN'S SPOTLIGHT

CUDDLE UP
Big and kind-hearted, I'm 22, large build, 6'14, into cycling and swimming, cinema, restaurants, cosy nights in, WLTm women between 20-30 for friendship and more... Box 898655

SPORTS MAD
Hard-working male, 5'10, brown hair/eyes, looking for a quiet, down-to-earth female, who enjoys sports and going out. Box 434255

ANIMAL LOVER
Friendly chap with a lot of love to give. I'm fun-loving, 26yrs old, looking for a fun, outgoing girl, who likes to have a laugh. Box 900321

TOP OF THE TOWER
Sweet guy, 31, 5'18, athletic build, looking for a possible long term relationship, or fun dates out. Box 898885

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL
32yr old down-to-earth, happy-go-lucky, considerate male, looking for a lively female to share happy moments with. Box 434229

A LOVE SUPREME
Caring, honest and genuine male, with a good heart, 34, love eating out, country pubs, uncomplicated, looking for someone with similar qualities. Box 900141

EXPLOSIVE PERSONALITY
Wicked sense of humour, old romantic, likes cycling, walking, live music, club/pubs. Sound good? I'm male, 35, seeking lady for friendship possibly more. Ramsgate Box 905588

REAL MAN
36yr old honest, kind, caring, single male, blond, 6'11, like walks, cinema, nights in/out, enjoy family life, WLTm like-minded, genuine female. Box 430440

R U 4 ME?
Down to earth and loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship. Enjoys meals out, good company & conversation, cosy evenings in. Box 914917

FINALLY FOUND YOU
Good-looking male 35, 5'8", no ties, enjoys pubs, restaurants, holidays, bowling, theme parks and more, seeks petite female, to share good times with. Ashford Box 198029

INTERESTED?
Spirited guy, 6', dark hair, brown eyes, enjoy football, WLTm broad-minded young lady. Box 415892

DELIGHTFUL DARREN
Darren, 38, loving, caring and trustworthy, 5'18, medium build, enjoys most things in life, seeks fun loving lady, to enjoy life with. Box 434234

BRIGHTER DAYS
Divorced male, 38, 5'10, blue eyes, no ties, likes motorsport, the gym, country pubs, wine bars, cycling, seeks spontaneous, fun woman for fun/laughter. Box 434217

FANCY THIS
Jason, 38, 5'18, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cycling, seeks genuine female for friendship, good times. Box 433326

MAKING SWEET MUSIC
Romantic male, 38, 6'11, blue eyes, medium/muscular build, enjoys socialising, cosy nights in, music, looking for a loving, fun-filled female for happiness. Box 433795

SPORTS MAD
Single male, 39 years old, 2 sons, very interested in all kinds of sports, seeking a lovely lady. Box 899774

LIKE TO HAVE FUN
Fit 39 year old male, looking for ladies of all ages for fun and friendship. I'm fit with good looks and physique with GSOH. Box 900426

A SPARKLE
Hi, I'm a down-to-earth male, 40, 5'7", medium build, green eyes, loves outdoors, sports, beach walks etc, WLTm an outgoing female for good times. Box 899004

DON'T DELAY, CALL TODAY
Attractive, independent, professional male, 40, OHAC, loves winning/dining, the sun, holidays, cinema, seeks occasionally, seeking a fun, sincere, loving female, to enjoy each others company. Box 434103

INDIAN GUY
Hi, I'm a relaxed, hard-working male, enjoy driving out, cinema, meals out, looking for my soulmate for fun times and companionship. Box 433353

COULD WE BE MAGIC?
Single male, 40 years old, 5'14, medium build, dark hair, brown eyes, looking for a bubbly, adventurous female, who's fun to be with. Box 433540

GAZ AUTOMATIC!
Hi, I'm Gary, 40yr old male, 5'11", muscular, tall, dark hair, enjoys most sports, looking for lady to share the finer things in life. Box 430142

TWO'S COMPANY
Thoughtful male, 41, 6'11, shaved head, blue eyes, medium to stocky build, looking for a caring female to share good times. Box 899053

FUN-LOVING AND EASYGOING
Great guy, young looking, 42, no ties, I'm 5'17, stocky build, fit, short hair/hazel eyes, been called handsome! I'm sporty, a non-smoker and enjoy holidays. Box 431226

OH YES
Simon, 53, 6'2", love the good times, like intelligent conversations, like going out, live bands, WLTm a cheerful, sociable female. Box 431425

SHINE TOGETHER
Slim male, 42, 5'11, genuine, reliable, N/S, likes all the usual things in life, WLTm genuine, down-to-earth lady, for friendship, dates, relationship. Gillingham area Box 425419

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Steve, 43, brown hair, green eyes, loves country pubs/walks, cosy nights in, swimming, GSOH, N/S, 5'17, seeks similar, loving lady. Medway Box 901155

BIG DEAL IN DEAL
Warm, tactile male, 42, 6'11, likes socialising, pubs, clubs, cosy nights in, seeks like minded female, for friendship, leading to more. Box 388967

LET'S CONNECT
Reliable, thoughtful, professional male, 42, 6'2", dark hair, hazel eyes, GSOH, enjoys music, sports, cinema, meals out, WLTm like-minded, attractive female for friendship, possibly more. Box 397492

IRISH EYES ARE SMILING
Sincere, stocky southern Irish guy, skin-head, no ties, 43, enjoys motor racing, pubs, cinema, the good life, discos, seeks lady to share life. Kent. Box 417532

TWO'S COMPANY
Michael, 43, 5'18, medium build, dark hair/eyes, hardworking, likes cooking, sports, disco, walks, seeks similar female for good company. Box 427395

TRY ANYTHING ONCE
Caring, understanding, honest 43 year old male, enjoys walks, swimming, reading, seeking a 45-55 year old lady. Chatham Box 429701

SUCCESSFUL AND SINGLE
Good looking male, 42, 6'2", well built, muscular, fit, enjoys cars, motorbikes, golf, rugby, socialising, travel, seeks female for friendship, leading to serious relationship. Box 158489

ON YOUR MARKS...
Tall, fun-loving, good-looking former athlete, 44, lived in USA many years, likes music, sports cars, looking for dark haired or exotic lady, GSOH, for LTR. Ashford Box 430121

MIX 'N MATCH
Young-at-heart 44yr old male, blond hair, blue eyes, easygoing nature, likes eating out, music, cinema etc, WLTm adventurous, witty, fit female for possible LTR. Box 432940

LOVE AND RESPECT ON OFFER
Honest, sincere, reliable male, 44, 5'17, medium build, likes sports, music, beach walks, country pubs. Box 433914

CATCH A FALLING STAR
44-year-old man, interests include socialising, days out, keeping fit, days out, seeking a caring, honest female, to share fun times. Box 433992

GO FOR IT
Michael, 44, fair hair, blue eyes, no ties, likes travelling, pubs, socialising, driving, seeks down-to-earth female for friendship and more. Box 434111

RING MY BELL
45yr old thoughtful, reliable male, 5'2", GSOH, gentle personality, love pubs, nights in, gardening etc, WLTm a like-minded, caring lady for companionship. Box 431171

STOP! HAMMER TIME
Hard-working, loving, loyal, honest man, 45, OHAC, enjoys cinema, West Ham, weekends away, life, lot of love to give, seeking my soulmate, 40-48, slim/medium build. Box 431914

LIFE'S PLEASURES
Hi, I'm 44 years old, with short light brown hair and blue eyes. I enjoy cinema/theatre, pubs and meals out, walks and weekends away. Box 903358

CANTERBURY CUDDLES
46yr male, 5'17, enjoys cinema, socialising, meals out, long walks on the beach, looking for a special lady, for fun, friendship, maybe more. Box 432611

FAMILY GUY
Laid-back guy, 46 years old, kids all grown up, looking for friendship, perhaps leading to more with a lady 36-50, with or without kids. Box 433410

yourcompetition

WIN! Signed Long Way Down books courtesy of Kent Nissan dealerships

ADVENTURE addicts hooked on Ewan McGregor and Charley Boorman's fantastic Long Way Down expedition will be thrilled to learn that Nissan, which provided two Patrols to support the team on its extreme journey, is releasing a number of Long Way Down Special Edition vehicles.

To complement the current range of naturally capable 4x4s, Nissan has created Special Editions of not just the Patrol but also the Navara 4x4 pickup to mark Nissan's involvement with the Long Way Down adventure.

Available now from Ancaster Bromley, Beadles Maidstone and Motorline Dartford including other Nissan dealerships in the area, motorists can drive away in the vehicles famed for their rugged performance, much like the Nissan Patrols that supported the travellers on their journey from John O'Groats to Cape Town.

To celebrate, the Kent Nissan dealerships are offering readers the chance to win one of 15 Long Way Down books signed not only by

NISSAN
SPORTS ADVENTURE

Russ Malkin and David Alexanian, the producers and directors of the hit show who drove the Nissan Patrols 15,000 miles, but also by adventurer Charley Boorman, who travelled the journey by motorcycle.

The two Nissan Patrols, which were modified to take the extreme rigours of the journey, demonstrated well-proven strengths of the Nissan 4x4 range including reliability, power and durability as they supported the Long Way Down team.

During their 86-day tour, the vehicles tackled non-existent roads, uncompromising terrain, deep mud and floods. The only problem to report over the journey was a single puncture between them!

It's easy to see why the Long Way Down team chose a Nissan 4x4 as their support vehicle on their gruelling 15,000-mile journey. The Patrol 'Long Way Down' Special Edition boasts a high-performance 3.0 litre, 160 PS, 16-valve



diesel engine along with a five-speed manual or four-speed automatic transmission with selectable 4WD and dual ratio gearbox.

Not all 'muscle', the tough vehicle also allows for luxury with climate control air-conditioning, DVD satellite navigation and luxury leather upholstery.

Matched in strength, style and durability are the Nissan Navara and Nissan Navara Expedition 'Long Way Down' special editions.

The Navara also took on an important role on the Long Way Down journey, it was driven by local crew from Botswana to South Africa.

With the same 4x4 spirit, the Navara's impressive engine delivers 171 HP and an

incredible 403Nm of torque, making it the most powerful vehicle in its class.

This European best-selling pickup gives great durability without increasing weight, able to take on heavy loads exceeding 1,000 Kg. The Special Editions boast 17-inch alloy wheels, dual zone climate control, six-speed manual transmission, part-time 4WD and leather upholstery for comfort and style.

The Navara 'Long Way Down' Expedition Special Edition further boasts DVD satellite navigation with voice activation and hands-free phone operation.

For further information about the Long Way Down Special Edition vehicles or to arrange a test drive, contact Nissan Ancaster Bromley on 020 8290 8700, Beadles Maidstone on 01622 716777 or Motorline Dartford on 01322 280025.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Nissan Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. Closing date is December 19, 2007.

Q) Which Nissan 4x4 did the Long Way Down team drive from John O'Groats to Cape Town?

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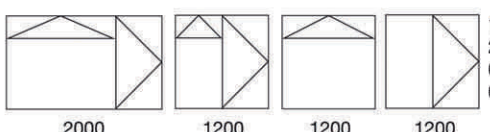
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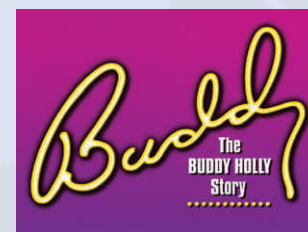
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yourashfordblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in the district of Ashford...



Technology is delivering fatal blow to post offices

THIS week it was announced that three post offices will be closing in the town as part of nationwide cut-backs.

We had the usual outraged comments from prominent members of the community about how this was the end postal service as we know it.

Local MPs jumped on the bandwagon, condemning the announcement knowing that the easiest way to impress your constituents is to criticise an unpopular decision, especially when they can be safe in the knowledge that they can do nothing to change it.

It is a shame to see an end to the local post office but I'm not sure I will miss them myself.

Most of us have queued in an endless line of cantankerous OAPs as they complain about how things are "not like what they used to be" and smelling of the cat. And the service has never exactly been customer centred, to use the modern management jargon.

The number of times I have walked up to the counter to renew my tax disc to receive that contemptuous look from the cashier as I produce my MOT and insurance certificates.

Why do I always feel like an escaped POW in some 50s war movie, who if he makes one wrong move, will immediately be taken round the back and shot? "For you Tommy, driving the Vauxhall Corsa is over."

I'm afraid the local post office is a thing of the past, but we only have ourselves to blame. The modern technology that we love so much is bringing an end to the world of funny tasting stamps and brown coloured paper.

The march of technology means we don't have to go out of the house. When people say the loss of a post office means the loss of their community they have a point.

We are becoming increasingly isolated in a virtual world and avoiding the real one.

And let's face it it's easy for things to get that way. Most mornings it's a struggle to get out of the bed in the morning. Why wander out into the wet cold world to post a letter if you can stay snug and warm in the front of your computer and dash off an email?

But I'm not sure it is good for the human condition. When it gets to the stage when it is easier interact to with your chat room friends

than your local shopkeeper, we are in trouble.

I can't help thinking the next generation of kids will be holding virtual birthday parties where they all sit in front of a screen and play virtual musical chairs and get a goody bags delivered by E-courier with a piece of cake and a Curly Wurly which doubles as an iPod.

Will all this mean that one day we all end up wired to some central computer main frame like something out of the Matrix? Twitching conversation to one another by thought alone.

Anthropologists have spent years studying complex tribal groups to see the countless ways human beings interact.

It seems the more advanced we get, the further from being comfortable with each other we become.

Perhaps standing in a queue with people we don't really want to be with is good for us.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All bloggers are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

GET IN TOUCH...

We want to hear your views



EMAIL: Letters, comments, views (along with your name) to: yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk



TEXT: **ASH** then your message to: 81800 (please remember to include your name)

LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, **Chris Britcher**, on 01303 817171 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Ashford blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor.

And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourashford.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, YourAshford, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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TALK TIME

JILL ARCHER

The manager of Goldrush Jewellers in Lower High Street discusses her job and life in the town.



How long has the shop been here?

We have been here about two-and-a-half years. As well as selling jewellery, we make items for clients and do alterations.

We also offer a pawnbroking service. The most popular things people like to buy at the moment are Belcher chains which are big, heavy nine-carat gold chains.

What do you think of the town?

I originally come from Ashford. I used to live in St Stephen's Walk, so I know it pretty well.

I don't know why they bothered doing the ring road because they did the same thing in Chatham and it killed off the trade in the town. The roads were up for six months. It now takes me 45 minutes to get round the ring road to drop my four-year-old daughter off at the nursery.

Hopefully the new development in the town centre will help, but they must have a good park and ride service like Maidstone.

What else could they do to improve the town?

I think it would be good if the whole of the market was moved to the Lower High Street. I think there is more space there and it would be better in one place.

As it is coming up to Christmas we are getting a lot of people coming in to pawn their jewellery. Our rates are based just on the weight of an item.

For example, for a two-ounce gold bracelet we would lend £180 and you would pay seven per cent interest every month while we have it. The normal term is six months.

YOUR LETTERS

We won't stop until we have a theatre

In response to V Thomas's question in your letters page 'When will I give our theatre campaign a rest?' – I and many others will stop campaigning when we have a successful theatre in the centre of Ashford.

When that happens we will gladly call a halt to our campaign and move on to vigorously promoting performances.

As for bingo; if, as is highly likely, Rank Mecca Bingo moves house to one of the new town centre development areas, then the old Odeon would once again be free to facilitate first-class entertainment for our town.

I do not have anything against bingo and believe both bingo and a theatre could live side by side without any problem.

The mighty moneymaking machine, Rank Gaming, has the power and where-with-all to do just about anything it wants and will either move or stay put as it sees fit. It certainly won't be due to influence by our campaign.

Either way, at least we could then have our Odeon back and in turn bring life back to our ailing High Street. I have asked Rank Gaming what its plans are for bingo in our town but it remains tight-lipped on the subject.

Should the Odeon ever become free then we would call on our council to protect it from any future development plans other than those supporting its original design purpose, in other words cinema or theatre.

We, the supporters of the campaign, would expect nothing less from Ashford council.

J. Cowen
www.ashfordtheatreproject.co.uk



COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yourashford.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article.

To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think.

And remember, www.yourashford.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Ashford, Tenterden and the surrounding villages.

The best comments left will be included on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience.

In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourashford before you've grabbed your copy, you never need to miss out.

On www.yourashford.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly acclaimed e-editions.

Let theatre campaign leader have his say

How disappointing to read the dissenting views about Jack

Cowen's efforts on behalf of theatre lovers in Ashford.

If they are not interested, why do they need to put a damper on things? Have they nothing better to do?

I may not be interested in

sports, but I respect the following they have and do not feel the need to write to the press to complain how much of my taxes go towards providing these facilities.

Perhaps I should point out that, far from there being a 'minority' support for the Ashford Theatre Project campaign, the 'Victor and Victoria Meldreys' should be aware there is actually a 'silent majority' and numbers are growing daily.

D Collins
via email



Yet another blow to Ashford rail hopes

I was saddened to read in your paper last week ('No competition for Eurostar, yet') that it seems there will be no immediate replacement services running from Ashford International to the Continent via a rival operator.

Once again it seems while everyone is seeking some good news from Eurostar's decision to cut services, the reality is that the station will remain running reduced routes until the operator decides it has had enough.

However, I applaud Damian Green for keeping the issue alive in the House of Commons.

G Hurst
Kennington



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I'm ready to log on to super-fast broadband

Being something of an internet fan, I was delighted to hear of the plans to transform Ashford into the region's broadband hot-spot.

The ability to receive super-fast web connections will allow us to enjoy the full benefits the internet brings and the prospect of receiving top-quality streaming video is something we should all embrace.

Not only that, but you only have to look elsewhere at how by being at the cutting edge of technological advancements, it can breathe exciting new life into the town and the local economy.

Gareth Townsend
Via email

Join petition for stricter animal testing controls

Like many members of the public, the RSPCA is concerned about the suffering of animals used in research and testing. The current review of the European law governing animal experiments presents a vital opportunity to benefit millions of animals.

We have launched a petition to demonstrate how strongly the public wants the new law to ensure tighter controls on animal use in experiments throughout Europe.

Add your support by visiting www.rspca.org.uk/directive86609, or visit your local RSPCA branch or shop.

The RSPCA believes the new law should cover all animals used in basic research, as well as education and training. Such animals account



for 35 per cent of animals used for scientific purposes, and are not protected by law. An immediate ban on the use of great apes and wild-caught primates and a co-ordinated strategy to replace all other primate use should also be included.

The housing and care standards for all species should be improved, which is the very least these animals deserve while their use in experiments continues.

We hope your name will be on the petition when we present it to the Government at the end of the year.

Sally Hall
RSPCA regional manager
South East region

Hunting ban 'will be turned over' - in time

The Law Lords may have rejected the appeal by the Countryside Alliance to end the hunting ban - but it will change one day, of that I am sure.

As you reported last week this ban is based on prejudice and has absolutely nothing to do with animal welfare.

There are two problems with this country; the government's inability to draft a decent law (smoking is another example) and the ridiculous way people in this country give animals personalities as though they are Disney characters.

David Hills
By email

Joanna's wild decision is one to be proud of

It was good to see Joanna Lumley backing the Kent Wildlife Trust by becoming its patron in its 50th year.

That such a popular, important and busy person can devote their time and energy to this cause just shows how important it is that we preserve and appreciate what we have in this county.

Some of the best scenery in the UK is right on our doorsteps.

Jeremy Bentham
By email

Let's hope safety device fobs off evil attackers

It's a good move by the family of Lucie Blackman to launch a new safety device which might help young people avoid the tragic fate which befell her.

I would urge all young people who feel they may be vulnerable to take advantage of the BuddySafe key fob.

Trevor Eales
By email



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Garlands of song about my mother

Lorna Luft's tour honours Judy Garland

CLASSIC songs with a personal resonance will ring out again as Lorna Luft brings her acclaimed show to Kent.

Songs My Mother Taught Me is Luft's first tour for a decade and one which both celebrates her own talent and pays tribute to her mother, legendary entertainer Judy Garland. Described as her most ambitious project to date, Luft has created a multi-media production that blends some of the world's best-loved songs with personal memories of her mother.

As the daughter of Garland and producer Sid Luft, music and entertainment were an integral part of her childhood.

She made her television debut on The Judy Garland Show at the age of 11, singing with the incredible voice that still makes her a hugely popular live performer.

Luft went on to become an acclaimed stage, television and film actress, best selling author, recording artist and Emmy Award nominated producer. Songs My Mother Taught Me has already been awarded two Los Angeles Theatre Alliance Ovation Awards.

Her mother was born Frances Ethel Gumm in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, in 1922. She first trod the boards at the age of two and a half, when she joined her two older sisters in a rendition of Jingle Bells at her father's theatre.

She soon emerged as the real star of the act, which had been renamed The Garland Sisters, and signed a contract with film studio Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer at the age of just 13.

In 1939 she landed the role of Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz, which is perhaps her most famous and best-loved character ever.

Her unforgettable voice and outstanding charisma



LORNA LUFT

Tuesday, January 29
The Orchard Theatre, Dartford



grabbed the world's attention and she became one of MGM's most bankable stars.

As she got older, Garland tried to escape the girl-next-door image created for her in an attempt to compete with her glamorous contemporaries.

However, she always worried about her appearance and suffered a number of breakdowns due to the pressures of her relentless workload.

She was married five times and had two other children – Liza, with director Vincente Minelli, and Joseph, also with Sid Luft.

Her incredible film, television and concert career was sadly overshadowed by the drug addiction which started during her early days at MGM. She died from an accidental overdose of barbiturates in her London home in 1969, aged just 47.

For Luft, who was only a teenager at the time of her mother's death, revisiting the past is both an emotional and uplifting experience.

She has released an album to accompany the tour, produced by husband Colin Freeman and long-time friend Barry Manilow, which includes emotive classics such as Meet Me in St Louis and A Star Is Born.

"In the show, we laugh, we cry, we sing, we joke," she said. "We celebrate the joy that was and still is my mom and her music."

The performance starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £19.50.

To book, call the box office on 01322 220000 or visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

FOR MOM: Lorna Luft's first tour in ten years is a tribute to her mother, Judy Garland



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AN EVENING WITH SIR DONALD SINDEN

Sunday, January 6
The Sinden Theatre, Tenterden



SIR Donald Sinden, patron of his namesake theatre, is making a welcome return in the New Year.

Back by popular demand, Sir Donald will be retelling the hilarious stories and anecdotes that sold out the theatre on two previous occasions.

With his unmistakable voice and commanding presence, Sir Donald has carved out an impressive career since making his stage debut in 1942. Originally destined for a career in architecture, he was asked to join a theatrical company that entertained troops during the Second World War.

His film debut was in *The Cruel Sea* in 1953, when he became a leading man, before moving into character roles later on. He found great success on television, particularly as the butler in *Two's Company* and a miserable in-law in sitcom *Never The Twain*. More recently, he has regularly appeared in *Judge John Deed*.

His long and distinguished career, spanning stage, screen and radio, provides plenty of material for an entertaining Evening with Sir Donald Sinden.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £15. To book, call the box office on 01580 763826.

THE GRUFFALO

Until Saturday, December 22
Gulbenkian, Canterbury

ENJOY some monstrous fun for all the family when *The Gruffalo* arrives at Canterbury's Gulbenkian Theatre.

The classic tale follows the adventures of Mouse, who sets out on a brave journey through the deep, dark wood. As he encounters scary animals on his adventure, Mouse frightens them away with his stories about a terrifying monster, the Gruffalo. But what will happen when he comes face-to-face with the menacing creature he imagined?

The Gulbenkian was packed with families when *Tall Stories* brought their fantastic *Monster Hits* to the theatre at half-term. Children and adults alike will be delighted that the company is coming back with a magical, musical adaptation of Julia Donaldson's acclaimed children's book.

With some wonderful costumes, great songs, big laughs and a few scares, *The*



Gruffalo offers a fun time for children aged three and above. Performance times for the 50-minute show vary, with both public and school showings.

Tickets cost £9 for adults,

£7 for children and £35 for a five-person group ticket. For more information and to book, call the box office on 01227 769075 or visit www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk.

DON MESCALL

Monday, December 17
Zebra Bar, Maidstone



RENOWNED Kent-based songwriter Don Mescall will be showing off his talents in Maidstone next week.

Mescall's songs have been recorded by big stars such as Ronan Keating, Lulu and Bryan McFadden. He has also co-written with Nashville legends Craig Wiseman, Randy Goodrum and Graham Lyle.

As a singer, Mescall has enjoyed the successful release of his debut album, *Innocent Run*, and major radio play of *You Don't Love Me* and *Left in LA*.

Now living in Folkestone, Mescall originally hails from Co Limerick, Ireland, and is one of just a handful of British songwriters to make an impact on Nashville's country music writing community.

Mescall is known for connecting with his audiences using intense delivery and intimately personal lyrics. Using profound life experiences, such as losing his father as a young boy and the failure of a marriage, his songs range from the fragile to the uplifting.

The gig, which will include a special surprise guest, starts at 8pm. Tickets, costing £10 on the night or £8 in advance, can be booked in person at the bar in King Street or by calling 01622 744481.

ASHFORD LEISURE

Christmas dinner is especially for the ladies

LADIES are invited to a Christmas dinner at Brabourne Baptist Church in Plain Road, Smeeth, on Monday, December 17.

The three-course meal, costing £7, will be followed by carols and a special Christmas message. The event starts at 6.45pm for 7pm. To find out more, call 01303 813368.

Come to wonderland and meet the reindeer

MEET reindeer and discover a starry wonderland at the South of England Rare Breeds Centre, Woodchurch.

From Saturday, December 15, to Sunday, December 23, visitors can meet Santa and his magical pets, watch a one-man pantomime and children can receive a quality gift from Father Christmas. As ever, there will be the chance to meet all the centre's permanent residents.

Pre-booking is essential. For details, call 01233 861493 or visit www.rarebreeds.org.uk.

Band will rock and roll you through the classics

FOR an eclectic mix of live music, head down to The Woolpack in Church Road, Smeeth, this weekend.

Where's Brian? is a six-piece band which plays a range of songs from Mack the Knife, through 50s rock 'n' roll, Motown, to Cockney Rebel and Queen.

The band will appear at 9.15pm on Saturday, December 15.

For more details, call the pub on 01303 812196.

Dance students to beat out a good technique

DANCE students will be demonstrating a variety of techniques at Angley School in Cranbrook on the evening of Wednesday, December 19.

Moving Bodies Dance School presents A Christmas Evening of Dance, starting at 6pm.

The performances will be followed by the presentation of awards.

Tickets cost £5 and there is a smart dress code. To book, call 07951 196151 or email movingbodiesdanceschool@googlemail.com.

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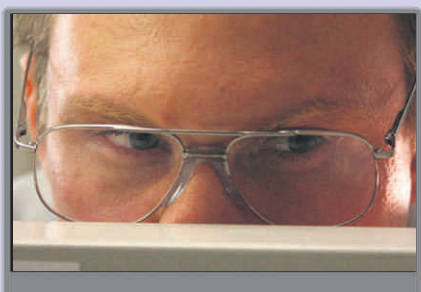
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YOU KILL ME (15)



Frank Falencyzk loves his job. He just happens to be a hitman for his Polish mob family in Buffalo, New York. But Frank's got a drinking problem and when he messes up a crucial assignment that puts his family business in peril, his uncle sends him to San Francisco to clean up his act.

HE WAS A QUIET MAN (15)



Bob Maconel is about to have a bad day. On this particularly bad day, Bob crosses the line from potential killer to inadvertent hero and in the process saves Vanessa's life. This invisible nobody saves the object of his desire, only to have her ask him to end her life.

CODE NAME: THE CLEANER (PG)



Cedric the Entertainer plays Jake, a seemingly regular guy who has no idea who he is after being hit over the head by mysterious assailants. When he finds himself entangled in a government conspiracy, Jake and his pursuers become convinced he is an undercover agent.

Star reveals secrets of a golden world

■ BY BEN FALK

IT'S a film based on a controversial but much-loved book trilogy – with a young hero on a quest helped by brave souls in a world full of darkness, magic and mystical creatures.

If this all sounds very Lord Of The Rings, it's because New Line Cinema, the company which wagered its fortunes on the film version of Tolkien's classic tomes, is doing the same again with a spectacular adaptation of the first novel in Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials series.

The Golden Compass is rumoured to be the most expensive movie ever made, with an estimated budget of more than £120 million.

It stars Nicole Kidman and Daniel Craig, but the story really rests on the shoulders of a 13-year-old newcomer called Dakota Blue Richards, who plays Lyra Belacqua, a precocious child who finds herself caught up in a mystery of epic proportions.

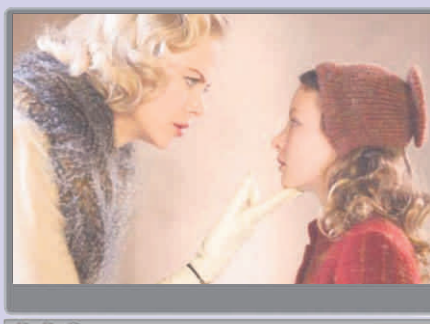
"I hope it doesn't affect my normal life too much," says the young actress, who lives in Brighton, Sussex. "Whenever I'm not in work, I'm back in school and just a normal pupil. I'd hate for the people at school to see me differently because of the film."

She might not have much of a choice. Already expected to be this year's major blockbuster, The Golden Compass is being presented as the first chapter in a three-part franchise, capitalising on the popularity of the books.

The novels are known for their complex themes, as well as their supposed anti-Catholic bias, which makes summing up the plot rather tricky.

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

yourkenttv.co.uk



In short, we are introduced to Lyra who lives in an alternative version of our world, she witnesses some shady behaviour by clerical body the Magisterium, meets her uncle Lord Asriel (Craig), befriends then evades the cold and calculating Mrs Coulter (Kidman), before heading north to rescue her friend Roger, who has been kidnapped by... well, you'll just have to see it to find out.

Making the journey more interesting are the various beasts she encounters along the way.

Not only does she enlist the help of a talking armoured bear (voiced by Sir Ian McKellen), but one of the conceits of the story is that in this universe, every person has their own demon, which is a physical manifestation of their personality or soul, in animal form.

Lord Asriel is a dark horse. Though dashing



NEWCOMER: Teenager Dakota Blue Richards, stars in the new fantasy film The Golden Compass

and mercurial, the twists and turns of the plot mean you are never quite sure of his intentions. And for Daniel, basking in the success of his first outing as Bond in Casino Royale, there were no qualms about plunging into another recurring role.

"It didn't bother me at all," he says. "That sounds like I have some grand plan, but it wasn't like that. It was a happy accident that it came up."

The father-of-one also revelled in sharing the screen with a raw youngster. "I get a big kick out of it," he explains. "You've got to work very hard and keep them enthused because it's a long day and the kids' energy levels go down. Dakota learned very quickly though and I teased her a lot."



THE GOLDEN COMPASS
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Celebrate Christmas in Calais

BY NICK AMES AND MARIJKE COX

A CONTINENTAL Christmas is just an hour away as Calais celebrates a joyeux noel with festive wine, food and fun.

One of Europe's largest roller coasters forms the centrepiece of the celebrations which have transformed the town over the holiday season.

It was put up on December 1 and is open until January 6, it is in position outside the historic town hall.

A Christmas parade took place at the weekend, which marked the latest stage in the festivities which commenced on the last day of November, when the Christmas lights were switched on.

Starting at the Place Crevecoeur and finishing in the Place d'Armes, spectators watched a fire and light show as gypsy horsemen galloped by and traditional music played.

Refreshments were provided at the finale with the local delicious chicken soup – a speciality of the nearby village of Licques – top of the menu.

The last few days have also seen a spectacular circus called Zavata come to the town, which featured clowns, jugglers and other performers.

A special children's village opens on Saturday, which is created out of timber. Attractions include a roundabout, fishing for ducks and a skittle alley. There is also a crèche for younger children.

Also, from Saturday a 'land train' will take visitors across the town and drop them off at vari-



DELIGHTFUL: The Christmas market at Calais has become a great festive day out

ous attractions. And for those with romance in mind, a horse drawn carriage is another option to see the sights.

A spokesman for the town said: "This is the biggest Christmas extravaganza we have ever seen in Calais. We are really looking forward to welcoming our English friends and showing what we have to offer."

"For a long time, Calais has been associated with a quick trip across to bring back wine and beer – but there is so much more here. There is history, the local countryside and some very smart restaurants, bars and hotels."

"We also have a huge range of shops selling

the best of local produce – meats, cheeses, wines and handicrafts.

"This is our opportunity to showcase what we have to offer and give people the chance to appreciate a truly French Christmas just an hour away from the shores of England."

In France, Christmas is a time for family and for generosity, marked by family reunions, gifts and candy for children, gifts for the poor, Midnight Mass, and le Réveillon.

In northern France, the Christmas season begins on 6 December, la fête de Saint Nicolas.

The country also has its own unique Christmas traditions.

French children put their shoes in front of the fireplace, in the hopes that Père Noël will fill them with gifts. Candy, fruit, nuts, and small toys will also be hung on the tree overnight.

In 1962, a law was passed decreeing that all letters written to Santa would be replied to with a postcard. When a class writes a letter, each student gets a response.

And this being France, food is very much on the menu, with traditional turkeys and goose featuring as the main course, with the local pureed crab a particular Calais delight.

Delicious desserts include La bûche de Noël (Yule log), made of chocolate and chestnuts. It represents the special wood log burned from Christmas Eve to New Year's Day in the Périgord, which is a holdover from a pagan Gaul celebration.

Also popular is La Galette des Rois (on Epiphany) – a round cake which is cut into pieces and distributed by a child, known as le petit roi or l'enfant soleil, hiding under the table. Whoever finds la fève – the charm hidden inside – is king or queen and can choose a partner.



FESTIVE FAYRE: Calais Christmas Extravaganza

Fact File: Calais

Time difference	+One hour (GMT)
Currency	Euros approx 1.425 to £1 (rate varies)
Region	Nord Pas de Calais
Language	French
Religion	Roman Catholic majority
Climate	Temperate

Visit details

You can get to Calais direct from Dover with P&O Ferries, or SeaFrance. Crossing times are around 90 minutes and foot passengers can take the free buss straight into the centre of the town.

Norfolk Line sails to Dunkerque, which has its own Christmas programme but Calais is short drive along the coast.



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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

No14

Can you spot the five differences between these two pictures of tourists outside Canterbury Cathedral?

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CROSSWORD

No14

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CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Honest view about retrograde art (8)
6 Wife initially gives assistance to pups (6)
9 Thrifty girl removed fur first (6)
10 Fundamental part cut short of a potato perhaps (4-4)
11 Seeing good girl reflectively here (7-5)
13 Can be linked to this gang (5)
14 Bend one's knee to get information on flu etc. translated (9)
17 Way first for churchgoer (9)
19 Odd but amusing (5)
21 Least space in which to wash one's hands? (8,4)
24 Pearls ie scattered on lattice-work (8)
25 Chucker-out does not finish the jump (6)
26 Curtain project (6)
27 Dismissing as contagious (8)

DOWN

- 2 Started part that was sharp-tasting (4)
3 Divine swimmer? (9)
4 Run fast, go quietly round everybody (6)
5 Call it fifth-rate wood-destroyer (7)
6 Unlawful, incorrect with three-quarters complete (8)
7 Do better making excellent start (5)
8 Not well for a short time and is easily beaten (4,6)
12 Lullabies? (5,5)
15 Boastful person making a lot of noise with the feature (9)
16 Sticking notice on, he is upset (8)
18 Thus Rita was held up inside - that's ironic (7)
20 Deep cavity at last for marsupial (6)
22 Released part of contract (5)
23 Old Bob is able to glance (4)

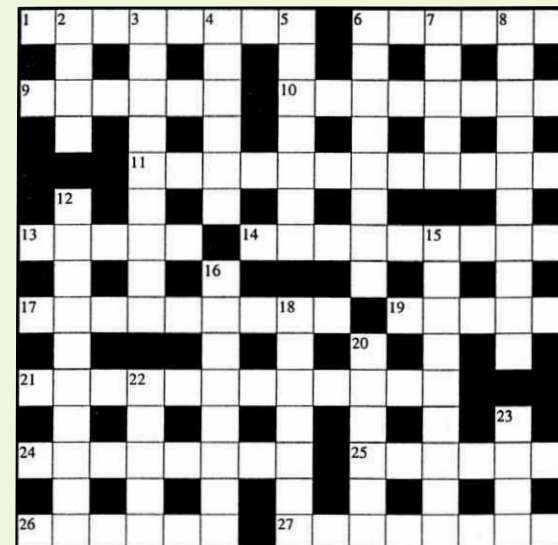
QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Followed (8)
6 Pillar (6)
9 Typewriter key (6)
10 Fence of stakes (8)
11 Photographic slide (12)
13 Glean (anag.) (5)
14 Deadlock (9)
17 Wandered (9)
19 Brush (5)
21 Hurry (4,2,3,3)
24 Nervous person (8)
25 Extinct primate (6)
26 Inscribed (6)
27 Tolerance (8)

DOWN

- 2 Anticipation (4)
3 Athletics event (9)
4 Polish capital (6)
5 Down payment (7)
6 Blameworthy (8)
7 Cotton thread (5)
8 Decimation (anag.) (10)
12 Amount saved (10)
15 Illusory discovery (5-4)
16 Joined again (8)
18 Relating to morals (7)
20 Horrified (6)
22 Covered entrance (5)
23 Hospital room (4)



SCRIBBLE HERE

SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1 Shadowed 6 Column 9
2 Covered entrance (5)
3 Hospital room (4)
4 Relating to morals (7)
5 Horrified (6)
6 Joined again (8)
7 Illusory discovery (5-4)
8 Amount saved (10)
9 Decimation (anag.) (10)
10 Cotton thread (5)
11 Blameworthy (8)
12 Down payment (7)
13 Polish capital (6)
14 Athletics event (9)
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28 Pillar (6)
29 Followed (8)

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24 Glean (anag.) (5)
25 Photographic slide (12)
26 Fence of stakes (8)
27 Typewriter key (6)
28 Pillar (6)
29 Followed (8)

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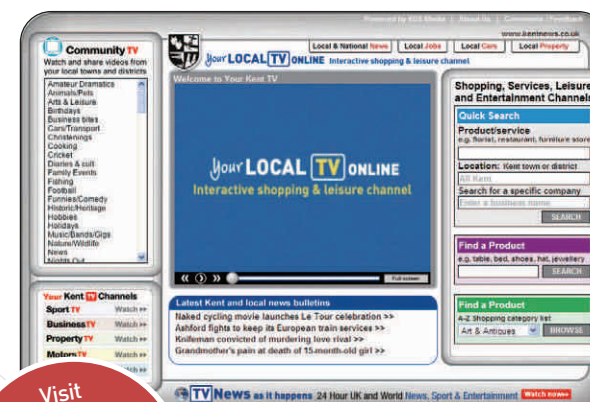
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YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

YOU could get lots of acclaim at work by conserving the company's resources. This is also a good time to hire extra help or invest in time saving machinery. A new group of people could make their way into your life. These friends could prompt you to expand your intellectual horizons. A female executive is poised to award you a plum position.



TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

YOUR creative juices are flowing fast and furious. If inspiration strikes, stop what you're doing and focus your intuitive insight on this bright new idea. An exciting new phase of your love life begins this week. Money could come your way. Save it to travel or study, as 2008 will be rife with opportunities to do both.



LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

PUTTING a little extra overtime can help your festive financial outgoings. You'll be in a better position to enjoy a romantic affair. Take care that you don't repeat past mistakes by showering expensive gifts on your amour. If this person truly cares for you, they won't demand expensive gifts and goodies.



SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

HELP with an ethical matter will be forthcoming this week. Follow an older person's advice regarding a hostile situation. A new source of income could come your way. Don't let a romantic partner or child persuade you to cancel business plans. You've got to seal this deal now, while the client is still keen. Friendship could turn to romance.



PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

AN exciting career opportunity could come your way. Although the prospect of assuming a powerful position is daunting, it's also exciting and energising. Don't let anxiety stop you accepting an impressive job offer. Celebrate your good fortune by taking a glamorous trip with your beloved. Snap up the objects of your desire this week.



GEMINI (May 22 - Jun 22)

A NEW phase of a close partnership begins this week, but you'll feel torn between your personal and professional lives. You could get into a heated argument with someone who seems paralysed with indecision and you're tired of being kept in limbo by their indecision. Fortunately, friends and family are squarely behind you.



VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

FRIENDS can relieve you of dreaded chores in the countdown to Christmas so don't hesitate to ask for help if you need it. If you want to move or buy a new home, the next two weeks are ideal. Someone who is afraid that they can't move a property during the festive season may be anxious to cut you a deal.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 21)

REVAMPING your looks puts you in the mood for the holiday season. Don't be surprised if an important executive starts throwing admiring glances your way. Trying to talk sense to an irrational relative will prove an exercise in futility so postpone this until after Christmas. Exerting your iron will could result in a journey or a new venture.



ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

RETURNING to school or embarking on an extended trip will open new worlds for you. This is a mixed blessing as you're having so much fun at home. Still, you can't afford to pass up an opportunity like this. Fortunately, your friends and family are poised to give you a push. Look to them when you start feeling jittery.



CANCER (Jun 23 - Jul 23)

IF IT has been difficult to broach a sensitive subject in the past this week brings a heaven sent opportunity to have a serious talk and get things sorted out before Christmas. A new job opportunity could fall into your lap and it may involve the chance to work from home or even give you a green light for starting your own business.



LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

YOU can be a real power behind the scenes this week. Resist the lure of the spotlight, as you'll make much more progress working in the wings. An erratic colleague could start getting on your nerves now so be sure to make your wants and wishes crystal clear. That way you won't be implicated in any mistakes they might make.



CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 20)

JOINING forces with a partner over an ethical matter is wise. When the opposition sees they are outnumbered, they will take the honourable route. You may crave solitary pleasures over the next two weeks. This could prove problematic with Christmas on the horizon. You must set boundaries if you're going to find time for the activities you love.

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No14

EASY

			8	9		4		
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9				4	6			1
	8					9		7
		2	9		5	4		
6		4					2	
8			6	9				3
		5		3	4		1	
	3		1	5				

HARD

		3			9	4		
				5				8
4				6	1		9	
7			4					
3		6				1		4
					2			9
	7		5	8				3
2				4				
		1	2			6		

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

Last week's solutions

EASY

7	6	8	4	2	9	1	6	3
9	6	1	8	3	7	5	4	2
3	2	4	6	1	5	7	9	8
2	4	6	7	5	1	8	3	9
8	9	5	2	4	3	6	1	7
1	7	3	9	6	8	2	5	4
5	1	9	3	7	2	4	8	6
6	3	7	5	8	4	9	2	1
4	8	2	1	9	6	3	7	5

HARD

7	1	5	4	6	9	3	2	8
6	3	8	2	7	1	4	5	9
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5	7	3	6	2	4	8	9	1
9	2	4	1	8	3	6	7	5
1	8	6	9	5	7	2	3	4
8	5	1	3	9	6	7	4	2
2	6	7	5	4	8	9	1	3
3	4	9	7	1	2	5	8	6

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PICK OF THE WEEKEND

BBC one

SATURDAY: STRICTLY COME DANCING (6pm): The pressure is on as the remaining celebrities compete for a place in the final. All that stands between them and the final are three routines, including an Argentine tango.
SUNDAY: ROBIN HOOD (4.05pm): As Robin joins the quest to unravel the coded clues leading to the mysterious Thesaurus Patriae, Marian decides to act alone in helping Locksley villagers.

BBC TWO

SATURDAY: THE CULTURE SHOW (6.10pm): The show's presenters look at the highlights of 2007, choosing their favourite moments.
SUNDAY: EARTH: THE POWER OF THE PLANET (7pm): Dr Iain Stewart travels to surfers' paradise Hawaii to learn more about oceans, explaining the difference between waves, tides and currents.

itv

SATURDAY: THE X-FACTOR FINAL (7.15pm): The remaining three acts are joined by judges Simon Cowell, Sharon Osbourne, Dannii Minogue and Louis Walsh.
SUNDAY: PARKINSON: THE FINAL CONVERSATION (9pm): The talk show host rounds off his career with a bumper helping of chat, including Peter Kay, Sir Michael Caine, Sir David Attenborough and Dame Judi Dench

4

SATURDAY: 100 GREATEST FUNNY MOMENTS (9.15pm): A selection of slip-ups, laughs, gaffes and forgotten gags from chat-shows, hidden camera stunts, internet viral attachments and stand-up comedy spots.

SUNDAY: ADDICTED TO PORN (11.25pm): Documentary examining the nature of porn addiction and its human costs, as well as exploring the growing evidence that the condition has a chemical basis.

five

SATURDAY: GREMLINS (5.45pm): Although Steven Spielberg ensures things don't get too nasty, this remains a wonderfully anarchic affair that is probably one of Hollywood's blackest mainstream hits.

SUNDAY: CLOSER (9pm): This all-star relationship drama follows a quartet of absurdly beautiful London urbanites.

I didn't want to be the next Ken Barlow

■ BY BEN FALK

THERE are plenty of ways to be killed off in a soap, but being bludgeoned to death with a spanner by your on-screen daughter is pretty final. Such was the fate of actor Thomas Craig, who played Coronation Street mechanic Tommy Harris, in 2005.

"The initial contract was six months and I did two and a half years," says the 44-year-old, who obviously holds no grudges. "It was their decision."

In fact, dying was something of a release for Thomas who admits that he never wanted to be a long-standing cast member. "Who wants to be Ken Barlow?" he says.

It gave the father-of-two the impetus to move onto other projects, notably the new series of Blue Murder, in which he stars opposite Caroline Quentin's homely detective as a corrupt football agent.

"There's only half a dozen scenes, but it was a nice part," he says, from the backseat of a London cab, where he is on his way (and late thanks to terrible traffic) to pick up his children from school. He concedes he can't remember much of what he did in the show, other than "put on a nice suit and slick my hair", since he filmed the programme back in May.

"He represents a young footballer who gets murdered," he continues. "He's in the mix, because he's caught out lying to the police."

One suspects Thomas partly said yes because the role gave him a chance to talk about football, something he is more than



MOVING ON: Thomas Craig has no regrets about leaving Coronation Street after two and a half years

passionate about. Like his Corrie alter ego, he is a lifelong Sheffield Wednesday fan and tries to get to most games.

"I've got two kids now, so I've got to pick and choose my games," he says. In fact, although he acknowledges they are too young to fully comprehend the nature of fandom, he has been trying to slip a Wednesday shirt on them from time to time. "But my missus takes them off and tells me not to be stupid!"

Although he never played to a competitive level, Thomas has indulged a fantasy to compete professionally courtesy of Sky's reality show, The Match, in which he has taken part for the last three years. "I played

centre half," he remembers, proudly. "It was fantastic – 52,000 people at St James's Park."

While he may not have had the skill or pace to make it in footie, Thomas is enjoying an enviable career as an actor and doesn't regret his decision to quit his previous job as a plumber.

"I just got interested in it when I was about 19 or 20," he recalls. "I got involved in proper classes. The guy there said 'do you fancy drama school?' and I said yeah."

He went to the Academy Of Live And Recording Arts in London and after a three-year course found his way into the business as a supporting actor in shows like The Paradise Club, Casualty and Where The Heart Is. "My family thought I was crackers," he says. "Until I started appearing on TV, they didn't get it."

"I've always had a career where I work and then I don't work," he explains matter-of-factly. "It feels like I'm not successful, but I've just been out in Canada for four months doing a TV show out there (the forthcoming Murdoch Mysteries). I've not worked for a month and now I feel like I'll never work again!"

Now is concentrating on the future and is particularly excited about the Canadian show, in which he plays a police chief. The programme is made by the people behind The State Within and will broadcast over there, before probably transferring to UKTV Drama next year.

He's also looking forward to Christmas, which means a lot to him. "The last two Christmases I've done panto," he says. "But I'm not doing one this year, because I've not had a proper family Christmas for the past two years. This year it's going to be good."

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A VIDEO diary posted this week by aspiring singer Laura Warwick proves it's not just gig footage that gets catches fans' interest.

Admitting "I can be a bit goofy at times" Laura lets her hair down in an un-staged personal look at the recording process, bum notes and all.

Performing is obviously in her blood; her great uncles are none other than Ray and Dave Davies from the Kinks, but she says she is not in contact with them and "nor are they any sort of stepping stone to stardom... unfortunately."

Currently involved in a number of projects, from soul to hip hop Laura is working with several musicians from both sides of the Atlantic.

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BEN MILLS: Local lad performs Crazy Train at an impromptu gig. The X-factor runner-up has postponed his UK tour due to recording commitments, and a new album is planned for 2008.

LOCAL TV ONLINE



GORDON GILTRAP: Classical guitarist plays over video of UK amateur champion ballroom and latin dancers, Ian Sharpe and Victoria Lawrence, from Thanet, dancing to one of his songs.



TIM POLLEY AND ROD DEXTER: Clip of Whitstable songwriters' show Been There Street, with of 17 songs, a seven-piece band, four singers, two narrators and a technical crew of four.



LAURA WARWICK: Jazz and soul singer's studio diary, shot during the recording of her latest song Paradise, provides a snapshot of Laura at work in the studio.



TURNSTYLE: Maidstone band have been together for nearly 10 years and bring years of experience to the stage, playing at functions across London and the South East.

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Southern India on the menu at new curry house

BY SIMON ROBINSON

GAPS in the market are few and far between.

With that in mind, if you ever have a eureka moment and dream up a revolu-

tionary new product, the chances are your brainwave has either already been invented and mass produced, or it is an incredibly ridiculous idea.

All of which makes the emergence of the Coco Diner more mind boggling. The restaurant, next to Gala Bingo in Chatham high street, is Kent's first southern Indian restaurant.



SPICY TREAT: Coco Diner in Chatham high street is opened by the mayor and mayoress

While hundreds if not thousands of eateries have popped up across the county offering tikka massala's and vindaloo's, not one has thought of bringing the curry-loving English public a taste of some of India's finest dishes.

Enter Jinu Mathew, the restaurant's proprietor and front of house specialist.

Mr Mathew said: "I have been working in the restaurant and catering field in London and India for the last decade. During all this period I noticed the misapprehensions in the Indian food scenario in the UK.

"In the last half-century curry has become more traditionally English than English breakfast. But until recently, all the available dishes were based on a couple of sauces, alternatively spiced up with chillies or cooled down with yoghurt.

Authentic

"The resulting concoctions are more often than not devoid of any relationship with food as eaten in India.

"This sparked the concept of Coco Diner, where we are earnestly trying to reproduce authentic and healthy southern Indian delicacies that are almost alien to your tongue."

As much as I wanted to protest at the notion of being sold on the food equivalent of watered-down beer, the facts were all there.

I, like the majority of humble English folk, have been brought up on 'Indian' food, namely poppadums, curry, naan bread and pilau rice.

The Coco Diner takes things much further.

Drawing on the slow-cooking method of the southern states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, the cuisine is non-greasy and is free of any unnatural colourings.



The chefs use a mix of coconut and a combination of spices to give each dish the unique southern flavour, which can be differentiated from any other region in India.

Highlights on the menu include starter Erachi Cutlet, made up of minced lamb cutlets made with mashed cassava, chopped onions, coriander and mint and coated with bread-crumbs.

Mains include Kori Gashi, a chicken breast dish sautéed in a paste of coconut and spices with fenugreek seeds, cinnamon and cumin, and Masala Dosa, a paper-thin rice pancake sandwiched with a filling of spicy potato.

Two of the top breads to enjoy are Parotta, cooked on a griddle with plain flour dough with milk and egg, and Uthappam, a circular-shaped rice pancake with onion and tomato topping.

Mr Mathew said: "Southern Indian cuisine is an unsung saga mostly due to its complexity and diversity.

"Though each of the four states in the south has its own exotic cuisine, they have some unique regional and religious delicacies.

"Our aim is to convey our passion for southern Indian cuisine in a way that gives customers a perspective on our quest for perfect ingredients, technique and a deep-seated desire to continue learning and evolving through old traditions and modern presentation."

Coco is open from Tuesday to Sunday. Call 01634 842489 or visit www.cocodiner.co.uk for more details.

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Medway Campus, Rowan Williams Court, 30 Pembroke Court, Chatham Maritime. Wednesday 19th December 2007.

The event commences at 12.00 noon (no need to book)

The session will give information and general advice for those interested in the Diploma of Higher Education Nursing Studies, Mental Health Branch. Advice about the range of nursing opportunities at Canterbury Christ Church University is also available at this session.

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Canterbury Christ Church University

www.canterbury.ac.uk

PROPERTY NEWS

Agents join forces to help homeless

THE UK's estate agency industry is aiming to eradicate homelessness as it launches a new charitable organisation – the Estate Agency Foundation.

Homelessness continues to be a serious problem in the UK.

In 2006, 173,000 households were declared as homeless or living in unacceptable conditions. Meanwhile, on any one night there are about 700 rough sleepers on UK streets.

Peter Knight, chairman of Estate Agency Events, which founded the new body, said: "We desperately need to go right back to the roots of homelessness and work at eliminating the causes as well as helping those who are homeless.

This will take considerable resources, but I believe that by working as a collective we have a real opportunity to make changes."

Couples prove to be the most desirable

COUPLES are regarded as the most desirable tenants for landlords in the property investment sector, according to recent findings by the Mortgage Trust.

The survey also noted a sharp increase in the number of landlords looking to let to corporate tenants. This group is now being targeted by 27 per cent of landlords, compared with just 14.4 per cent in January.

Both groups are regarded as least likely to default on repayments.

Base rate reduction benefits customers

FOLLOWING last week's changes to the Bank of England base rate, the Co-operative Bank will be passing on the full benefit of the base rate reduction to its mortgage customers by cutting its standard variable rate (SVR) by 0.25 per cent to 7.49 per cent, with effect from January 1.

The Co-operative Bank also calculates interest on a daily basis and, unlike some other lenders, does not impose Higher Lending Charges (HLCs) on any products. For more details, visit www.co-operativebank.co.uk/mortgages.



DON'T DO IT: Tacky, over-the-top exterior decorations will spoil the first impression made by your house and can seriously impair the chances of a sale

Don't hide your home behind tacky decorations

HOMEOWNERS looking to sell up this festive season should turn off the Christmas lights if they want to turn on the housing market.

According to recent research by industry analysts propertyfinder.com, many would-be sellers ruin the appeal of their homes with over-the-top exterior seasonal decorations.

A massive 76 percent of home seekers said they would be put off buying a house which was over enthusiastically decorated while 36 percent even said they would be put off buying a home if a nearby one was treated in the same way.

Only broken down vehicles outside the property were rated as more off putting.

Warren Bright, chief executive of the influential market experts, said: "Buying a home is

■ BY NICK AMES

an emotive process, so first impressions are everything. An unappealing exterior definitely puts off buyers.

"At this time of year overenthusiastic adornment of properties is a real problem so sellers should beware.

"Outdoor Christmas lights are perceived as tacky and can cause prospective buyers to be put off the property – or even the whole area."

The survey found eight times as many people were worried about ostentatious exterior decorations as were worried about the interior.

However with the number of sellers expected to outweigh buyers in the coming weeks, the advice is to keep your interiors in pristine condition and ensure that any decorations you

do put up are in keeping with the style of your home.

Mr Bright said: "Competition among sellers is going to be rife over the next couple of months and my top tip is to avoid bold statements. Prospective buyers like to see a neutral décor on which they could stamp their own identity. Christmas is no exception to this rule and decking your home with colourful flashing lights and tinsel is a big no.

"If you have a period property opt for traditional decorations in warm colours such as reds and golds, a modern home can accommodate sharper lines and cooler colours such as silver and blue. If you have a warehouse flat you should go for minimal decorations.

"Sellers need to know what type of buyer their property would appeal to and tailor their Christmas decorations accordingly."

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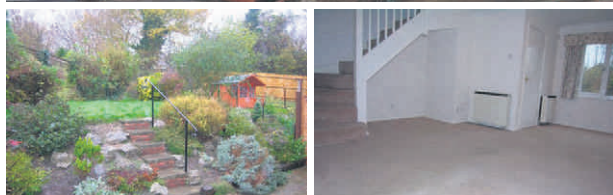
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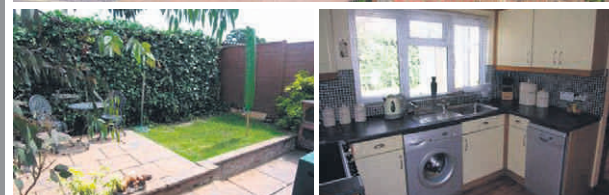
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- Off Street Parking
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- En suite to master

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- En Suite to Master
- Two/Three Reception Rooms
- Gardens and Parking

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- Off Street Parking
- No Chain

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- Garage & Driveway
- Sought After Location

Kennington

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- Off Street Parking
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- Double Glazing

Willesborough

£355,000



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Lot size: 1,300 m²
Type: Freehold



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Type: Freehold



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Square meter: 110 m²
Lot size: 500 m²
Type: Freehold



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Beds: 3, Baths: 1
Square meter: 70 m²
Lot size: 800 m²
Type: Freehold



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Borisovo, Bulgaria
Beds: 5, Baths: 1
Square meter: 120 m²
Lot size: 2,080 m²
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Lot size: 350 m²
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REF: 0132DSP - BENITACHELL, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 189,633 € (APPROX £135,640)
Brand new development of apartments offering two or three bedrooms. These apartments offer spectacular views and are due for completion in February 2008.



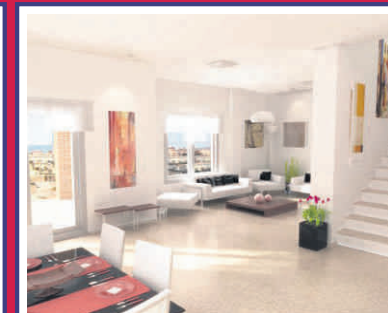
REF: 0137DSP - BENITACHELL, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 350,415 € (APPROX £250,640)
Two or three bedroom villas available for off plan development. Many styles and plots available. All plots offer excellent sea views and built within 18 months of purchase.



REF: 0138DSP - BENITACHELL, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 328,000 € (APPROX £234,610)
Two or three bedroom villas available for off plan development. Many styles and plots available. All plots offer excellent sea views and built within 18 months of purchase.



REF: 0204DSP - JALON, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 235,000 € (APPROX £168,090)
Brand new townhouses offering three bedrooms, private parking, private terraces and communal pool. Development is due for completion End of February 2008.



REF: 0205DSP, GATA DE GORGOS, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 451,000 € (APPROX £322,590)
Brand new development of villas offering three bedrooms, communal swimming pool, great location and picturesque views. All properties to be completed by Jan 09.



REF: 0206DSP, GATA DE GORGOS, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 361,000 € (APPROX £258,210)
Brand new development of villas offering three bedrooms, communal swimming pool, great location and picturesque views. All properties to be completed by Jan 09.



REF: 0155DSP, ALTEA, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 361,500 € (APPROX £258,570)
Brand new development of two and three bedroom townhouses offering fantastic views and a great location. This development is now key ready!



REF: 0159DSP, ALTEA HILLS, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 262,400 € (APPROX £187,687)
Luxurious residential estate offering two and three bedroom apartments with spectacular views of the Mediterranean coast line. This development is now key ready!



REF: 0158DSP, ALTEA HILLS, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 262,400 € (APPROX £187,687)
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MOTORS NEWS



Chrysler dealer's offer of All-Star Weekends

DUTTON Forshaw Chrysler, Jeep and Dodge at Broad Oak Road, Canterbury is running a test drive promotion that could win one lucky motorist a car worth up to £30,000.

All-Star Weekends runs until December 31 and dealer principal Lynne Kennard said it highlighted a wide range of cars sold by the dealership.

"From MPVs (pictured – Chrysler PT Cruiser), family saloons and executive estates to compact SUVs and full-size 4x4s," she said.

Lynne added that savings of up to £2,000 are available on some models, while a day's free off-roading and driver training is on offer to anyone buying a car from her dealership this weekend.



'New Jaguar' styling now given to X-Type

A RADICAL new mid range Jaguar, the XF model arriving in the spring, has meant some re-working for other models in the line-up.

The big XJ saloon has already had some tweaks and now it is the turn of the baby of the range, the X-Type saloon and estate.

The 2008 version has a bold single mesh grille plus new bumper and lower air intakes and an uprated interior, plus the new option to twin the acclaimed 2.2-litre diesel with a six-speed auto gearbox.



Insignia is new face of Vauxhall's old favourite

VAUXHALL has released the above picture to build interest ahead of replacing the Vectra next summer and renaming it Insignia.

The new label will also be packaged with a move upmarket for this key model, recognising that Vauxhall must now do battle with German executive cars as well as fending off its old sparring partner, the Ford Mondeo. Ominously, Ford has already taken the same step with the all-new Mondeo launched to acclaim and booming sales earlier in 2007.



GROWING UP FAST: Despite being launched only three years ago the Picanto is Kia's oldest car and has been given a makeover putting it at the forefront of value and reliability

Picanto makeover shows Kia has high ambitions

ROAD TEST KIA PICANTO

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

This model was chosen for the new-look car's debut – the 'base' Picanto, Picanto 2 (from £6,795) and Picanto 3 flagship (£7,995) are not with us until January – and looks unbeatable at the price for driving quality and economy with five doors plus decent spec with air-conditioning.

Despite compact dimensions and, therefore, a necessarily short wheelbase, the Picanto delivers a decent ride and drive.

With just 64bhp from the mainstay 1.1-litre engine, it is never going to be a ball of fire – it takes 15 seconds to hit 60mph – but the car's average of 50-plus mpg is far more relevant in this class.

Those seeking even better economy will be interested in the January's £5,995 entry model; the Picanto pure and simple has a 61bhp 1.0-litre engine capable of averaging nearly 60mpg and runs on smaller 13-inch wheels for lower rolling resistance.

With further weight-saving measures such as having just four seats, this has brought that model's emissions down to just 117gms/km – good enough to get into the vehicle excise duty band-B and qualify for exemption under proposed London congestion charge revisions.



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05	Fiat Punto 1.2 Active, 5 door, Hurricane Grey, CD, 21k	NOW £4550
03	Peugeot 206 GLX 1.6, Aluminium, Alloys, spoiler, 25k	£4995
52	Peugeot 307 Rapier 1.6, 5 door, Paprika, One owner, Air con	£4995
54	Peugeot 206 Zest 1.1, 3 door, Flamenco Red, One owner, 15k	£5295

Other Models

05	Renault Clio Dynamique 1.2, Electric Blue, Air con, Sun roof	£5995
05	Ford Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate, Sapphire Blue, Alloys, 24k	£5995
53	Honda Jazz 1.4 SE Sport, Mint Opal, Air con, Service histor	£5995

107/1007 0% Typical APR finance available.*

55	107 Urban 1.0, 3 door, Raven Black, One owner	£5295
56	107 Urban 1.0, 5 door, Aluminium, Air con, 1 owner	£6995
06	1007 Sport 1.4 Automatic, Aegean Blue, Alloys, 7k	£6495
56	1007 Sport 1.6 Automatic, ex demo, Air con, Alloys, 6k	£7495
07	1007 Sport 1.6 Automatic, Cayman Metallic, Del miles	NOW £7995

206

05	206 Zest 3, 1.1, 3 door, Aluminium, Air con, CD	£5995
54	206 S 1.4, 5 door, Aegean Blue, Air con, Electric mirrors, CD	£5995
54	206 S 1.4, 5 door, Moonstone, Air con, ABS, One owner	£5995
05	206 Zest 2, 1.4, 5 door, Aegean Blue, Air con, 21k	£6395
05	206 Sport 1.4, 5 door, Moonstone, Merlin trim, 12k	£6995
05	206 S 1.4 AUTOMATIC, 5 door, Aluminium, Air con, 16k	£6995
55	206 Verve 1.4, 5 door, Iron Grey, One owner, Alloys	£6995
07	206 LOOK 1.4, 5 doors, A/C, DELIVERY MILEAGE	Choice of 6 £7745
56	206 Verve 1.4 HDI, 5 door, LOW TAX, Iron Grey, 4k	NOW £7995
07	206 Look 1.4 HDI, 5 door, LOW TAX, Diablo Red	£8495

206 STATION WAGON 0% Typical APR finance available.*

05	206 S 1.4 SW, Moonstone metallic, Air con, 10k	£6775
54	206 S HDI 90 SW, Aluminium, Air Con, CD, 25k	£6995
06	206 Verve 1.4 SW China Blue, Alloys, Air con, 19k	NOW £6995

207 0% Typical APR finance available.*

56	207 S 1.4, 16v, 5 door, Iron Grey, Air con, CD, ABS	£8995
56	207 S HDI 1.4, 3 door, Aegean Blue, ex demo, 2k	£9295
07	207 S 1.4, 16 valve, 5 door, Flamenco Red, Alloys, 4k	£9495
07	207 S HDI 90, 3 door, Aegean Blue, economical	NOW £9995
56	207 Sport HDI 110, 5 door, ex demo, Lacerta Yellow	£10495
56	207 GT 150, Full Leather, Cruise control, JBL Hi-fi	NOW £10995

307 PETROL

52	307 Rapier 1.6, 5 door, Aluminium, Alloys, Air con	£5495
54	307 S 1.6, 5 door, Aegean Blue, Alloys, Air con, 1 owner	£6795
05	307 X Line 1.6, 5 door, Onyx Black, One owner, 21k	£6995
55	307 S 1.6 Automatic, Iron Grey, Air con, Sun roof, 17k	£8595
55	307 SE 1.6 Automatic, Iron Grey, Climate Control, 12k	£8995
07	307 X Line 1.4, 16 valve, 5 door, delivery mileage, metallics	£9422
56	307 S 1.6 Automatic, 5 door, Iron Grey, Alloys, 7k	£9680
07	307 Feline 180, 3 door, Aluminium, Cerbere Leather, 3k	NOW £10995

307 DIESEL 0% Typical APR finance available.*

55	307 S HDI 110, 5 door, Aegean Blue, Alloys, Air con	NOW £8495
55	307 S HDI 110, 5 door, Mulberry metallic, Electrics pack	£8995
55	307 SE HDI 110, 5 door, Onyx Black, Climate, Multi CD	£9495
56	307 S HDI 90, 5 door, Iron Grey, Economy with power	NOW £9495
55	307 Quiksilver HDI 136, Smartnav, 17" Alloys, Climate	NOW £9495
56	307 S HDI 90, 5 door, Diablo Red, Alloys, CD, ABS	£9995

307 ESTATE/SW 0% Typical APR finance available.*

03	307 SW SE HDI, Aegean Blue, Climate, Alloys, 43k	£7295
06	307 SE HDI 1.6 SW, Iron Grey, Alloys, Climate, Low emissions	£10495
56	307 SW SE HDI 110, Choice of colour	ONLY £11485
56	307 SE HDI 110 SW, Aluminium, Agave velour, Multi CD	£11495
56	307 SW SE 1.6 AUTOMATIC, Himalayan Grey, 2k	£11995
07	307 SE HDI 136 SW, Onyx Black, Agave Velour, Climate, 6k	£13990

407 SALOON 0% Typical APR finance available.*

55	407 SV 2.2, AUTOMATIC, Iron Grey, Electric seats, Parking aid	£10695
06	407 SE HDI 136, Moonstone, ABS, CD, Climate, 17k	NOW £10895
55	407 SE HDI 136, AUTOMATIC, Ruby Red, Alloys, Climate	£11695
56	407 SE HDI 136, AUTOMATIC, Aluminium, Cruise control	£12680

407 COUPE

55(06)	407 Coupe 2.7V6 HDi GT Automatic, Aluminium, Black Leather	£16995
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407 STATION WAGON 0% Typical APR finance available.*

56	407 GT V6 HDI 210, Automatic, Onyx Black, Leather Full spec	£16995
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MPV

54	807 Executive HDi 110, Astor Grey, 7 seats, Climate, CD	£11995
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COMMERCIAL

06	Peugeot Expert Diesel, Bianca White, Ply lined, 24k	+ vat £8495
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COUPE-CONVERTIBLES 0% Typical APR finance available.*

+ £500 discount on all 307CC.

53	206 CC, 1.6 S Automatic, Aluminium, Alloys, Air Con	£9250
53	206 CC, 1.6 Allure, Diablo Red, Black Leather, One owner	£9450
53	206 CC, 1.6 Allure, Onyx Black, Leather, CD, Alloys	£9450
54	206 CC 1.6 Allure, Aluminium, Black leather, Alloys	£10495
05	307CC 2.0, Aegean Blue, one owner, Alloys	£10995
55	206 CC, 2.0 Allure, Flamenco Red, Black Leather	£11395
05	307 CC 2.0, 138 bhp, Onyx Black, Alloys, CD, ABS, 24k	£11995
55	307CC, 180 SE, Facelift model, Onyx Black, CD, ABS	£13995
07	207CC, GT 120, Asmara Red, Simple Black Leather, 2k miles	£14295

DEMONSTRATOR SALE

207	Urban HDi 70, Diablo Red, Electrics pack, CD, ABS	£8995
07	207 Sport HDi 90, 5 door, Iron Grey, Alloys, ABS	£10995
56	307 Sport HDi 110, 5 door, Iron Grey, Black Leather, 8k	£11695
07	307 SE HDi 136 Station Wagon, Diablo Red, Climate control	£13995
07	307 SE HDi 136 Station Wagon, Abyss Blue, Agave velour	£13995
07	307 Sport 2.0 Convertible, Diablo Red, Black leather, 6k	£16495

* Finance subject to status- Terms & conditions apply- Written details on request- Over 18's only.

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†Typical 5.9% APR applies to selected 207 models. Offers subject to status. Over 18s only. A guarantee may be required. Written quotations available on request from the dealer address above and Peugeot Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, RH1 1QA. ^This payment does not have to be made if you choose to hand your car back to Peugeot. Prices, offers and information correct at time of going to press. Offers apply to vehicles ordered and registered from 12/11/07 until such point as they may be withdrawn by the above dealer at its discretion. Offers subject to availability. *Prices quoted are on the road and include delivery to dealership, number plates, 12 month's Government Vehicle Excise Duty, £50.00 Government First Registration Fee and apply to 107 Urban 1.0 Litre Hatch 3 dr and 207 m:play 1.4 8v 75 Hatch 3dr. Full terms and conditions available to view at your local Robins and Day dealership or at www.robinsandday.co.uk. (PEUGI3464)

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£212 Deposit

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2005 (55) MONDEO 2.0 ZETEC 5 DOOR Tonic Blue, Aircon, 1 Owner, 22,500 miles	£8,995
2006 (56) FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC CLIMATE 3 DOOR Ocean Metallic, Aircon, 1 Owner, 15,000 miles	£7,495
2007 (56) FOCUS 1.6 (115PS) ZETEC CLIMATE 5 DOOR Ocean Blue, Aircon, 1 Owner, 11,500 miles	£9,495
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2007 (07) FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC CLIMATE 5 DOOR Tonic, Aircon, 1 Owner, 3,000 miles	£7,995
2007 (56) FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC CLIMATE 5 DOOR Panther Black, Aircon, 1 Owner, 7,000 miles	£7,895
2007 (56) FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC CLIMATE 5 DOOR Moondust Silver, Aircon, 1 Owner, 4,500 miles	£7,995
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2005 (05) FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC AC 3 DOOR
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£5,995

2005 (05) FIESTA 1.6 ZETEC-S 3 DOOR
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£7,795

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2006 (56) MONDEO 2.0 16V GHIA 5 DOOR Panther Black,
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2005 (54) FOCUS 1.6 GHIA 5 DOOR
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£4,995

2006 (06) FIESTA 1.25 FREEDOM 3 DOOR
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2005 (54) FIESTA 1.4 LX AC 5 DOOR Moondust Silver,
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2005 (55) FOCUS 1.6 LX AUTOMATIC 5 DOOR
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£8,195

2005 (55) MONDEO 2.0 16V AUTOMATIC 5 DOOR Green
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2007 (56) MONDEO 2.0TDCi (115ps) EDGE 5 DOOR Tonic
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£11,795

2006 (56) FIESTA 1.6TDCi ZETEC CLIMATE 5 DOOR
Panther Black, Aircon, 1 Owner, 10,000 miles

£9,295

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2005 (55) FOCUS C-MAX 1.6 115PS ZETEC Magnum Grey,
Aircon, Comfort Seating System, 13,000 miles

£8,895

2006 (06) S-MAX 1.8TDCi ZETEC 7 SEATER
Stardust Silver, Aircon, 1 Owner, 13,000 miles

£15,595

2006 (56) GALAXY 2.0TDCi GHIA 7 SEATER
White Grape, Panorama Roof, Climate Control, 1 Owner, 12,500 miles

£16,995

2006 (56) S-MAX 2.0TDCi TITANIUM 7 SEATER
Tonic Metallic, Climate Control, Parking Sensors, 1 Owner, 16,000 miles

£17,495

2006 (06) GALAXY 2.0TDCi GHIA 7 SEATER
Sea Grey, Climate Control, 1 Owner, 13,000 miles

£17,595

2006 (56) GALAXY 2.0TDCi GHIA 7 SEATER
Machine Silver, Dual Conditioning, ESP, Parking Sensors, 1 Owner, 9,000 miles

£17,995

2006 (56) GALAXY 2.0TDCi GHIA 7 SEATER Sea Grey,
17" Alloys, Dual Aircon, 1 Owner, 11,000 miles

£17,995

2006 (56) GALAXY 1.9TDi 130PS GHIA 7 SEATER
Platinum Metallic, Dual Aircon, Cruise Control, 1 Owner, 13,500 miles

£15,495

2004 (04) GALAXY 1.9TDi 115PS GHIA 7 SEATER Metropolis
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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

FORD GALAXY



IF Renault's Espace distilled the essence of the people carrier, Ford mass-produced it. The 1995 vintage Galaxy and its cloned sisters, the VW Sharan and Seat Alhambra, sold in big numbers helped by a combination of style, space and car-like handling. The fact that the Ford soldiered on for 11 years, helped by a superb makeover in 2000, is a tribute to the design. Reliability on early examples is increasingly flaky so post-2000 diesels are the pick of the used crop.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

CHRYSLER VOYAGER



COMMERCIAL and private buyers have made the Voyager a big hit for Chrysler in the UK. All versions seat seven, but there is more demand for the extra luggage space of 13-inch longer 'Grand' models and those featuring Stow 'n' Go: underfloor stowage that also takes the folded seats. The smooth and powerful post-2004 diesel auto is the powertrain to go for. The Voyager rides comfortably, but bulk, small wheels and vague steering make for a dull drive.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

KIA SEDONA



NEVER mind the quality, feel the width describes the Kia Sedona (1999-2006). Replaced by a more sophisticated model, the original is a cheap, reliable and capacious used buy though the interior is tacky, safety features were not up with rivals and it feels lumpy on rural roads while excelling as a comfy motorway muncher. The post-2002 125bhp diesel is the engine to go for if the budget will stretch. Sliding rear doors and a big tailgate make access easy.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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(R) VW Golf Convertible 1.8, Red, 74,000 miles, e/w, c/l, CD player £3200.00



(S) Mercedes CLK 230 Compressor Sport Coupe Auto. Met/Blue, Ivory leather interior, low mileage 57,000 with service history. £6699.00



(51) Vauxhall Astra 1.6 SXi, 5 door in red. Usual SXi extras. Nice little car NOW £2999.00



(02) Citroen Xsara Picasso SX 2.0 HDI in silvery blue metallic. Good order ideal family car in diesel. NOW £4299.00

(51) Volvo V370 2.4 SE Estate, Met Blue, Leather trim £5500.00

(03) Peugeot 307 XSI 2000cc Silver 5dr Alloys £4799.00

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(52) Peugeot 206 1.4 LX 3 door hatchback in met blue 50,000 mls a/c pas e/w c/l £3699.00

(X) VW Passat 1.8 20V in met silver, e/w, a/c, cruise control. NOW £3199.00

(Y) Reg Vauxhall Corsa Expression 12 valve, red, 22,000 miles £2999.00

(53) Ford Ka red, 14,000 miles £2999.00

(51) Peugeot 106 Xn Zest silver, 50,000 miles £2999.00

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(Y) Toyota Yaris 1000cc 3dr silver £2499.00

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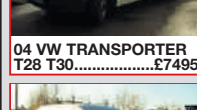
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APR 04	MERCEDES VITO 109 2.2 cdi extra long twin doors 29,000 miles blue £9995
NOV 06	RENAULT TRAFFIC T2 7 1.9 tdi 100 ps 6 speed white 15,000 miles £9495
JAN 06	TOYOTA HI ACE 300 sub silver w/b 2.5 tdi met silver 20,000 miles £9995
JAN 05	VOLKSWAGEN TRANSPORTER T30 SWB MEB ROOF 1.9 TD 104 PS BLUE 44,000 MILES £8995
SEPT 06	TOYOTA HI ACE D4D 280 gs swb white 21,000 miles fsh £8995
SEP 05	VW TRANSPORTER T28 1.9 tdi 85 ps white choice off 2 £8500
MAY 06	FORD TRANSIT 260 2.0 td 85 ps swb l/roof white 26,000 miles £8500
SEP 06	FIAT SCUDO 2.0 jtd sx dynamic 3 seats twin doors elec windows air/con 38,000 miles £8495
DEC 05	FORD TRANSIT 280 2.0 TD 85 PS SWB L/ROOF WHITE 35,000 MILES £8450
JUN 05	FORD TRANSIT 280 sub l/roof 2.5 tdi 85 ps dark blue 19,000 miles fsh lined £8350
NOV 04	MERCEDES VITO COMPACT 109 2.1 cdi met black 38,000 miles £8500
APR 05	FORD TRANSIT 280 2.0 td 85 ps swb med roof air/con elec windows £7500
MAR 05	FORD TRANSIT 280 swb semi hi 2.0 td 85 ps lined 62,000 miles choice off 2 from £6995
SEP 03	FORD TRANSIT 280 2.0 td 100 ps mwb med roof blue 25,000 miles fsh £6995
SEP 05	FORD TRANSIT 280 sub l/roof 2.0 td 85 ps white 56,000 miles £6995
OCT 05	PEUGEOT EXPERT 815 1.9 diesel 3 seats twin doors silver choice off 3 40,000 miles £6795
AUG 04	PEUGEOT EXPERT 1.9 diesel twin doors red 32,000 miles £5995
MAY 04	FORD TRANSIT 300 2.0 TD 100 PS SWB MED ROOF FWD £5500
SEP 02	FORD TRANSIT 280 2.0 td 100 ps swb l/roof blue 26,000 miles £5995
OCT 04	PEUGEOT EXPERT 815 1.9 diesel 53,000 miles choice off 2 £5650
DEC 04	PEUGEOT EXPERT 815 1.9 diesel 3 seats twin doors white £5400
NOV 02	RENAULT TRAFFIC SL27 1.9 dci 100 ps swb white £4995
AUG 01	VOLKSWAGEN TRANSPORTER 2.5 tdi syncro 4x4 van £4995
NOV 02	TOYOTA HI ACE 280 gs 4x4 2.5 tdi swb blue fsh £4500
JUL 00	FORD TRANSIT 100 2.5 diesel swb l/roof ex council white £3350
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JAN 99	FORD ESCORT 55 1.8 diesel white van mot mar 08 £1500 NO VAT
APR 99	RENAULT KANGOO 655 1.9 DIESEL 77,000 MILES WHITE £1500
98S	FORD MONDEO 1.6 lx estate £995 NO VAT
98	FORD ESCORT 55 1.8 diesel van £995
AUG 03	CITROEN C15 1.9 DIESEL MOT DEC 08 £900 NO VAT
96	FORD FIESTA 1.8 DIESEL VAN £795

4X4	
MAY 06	MITSUBISHI L200 did 2.5 tdi 134bhp crew cab 4x4 pick up blue air/con 15,000 miles fsh £10495
JULY 05	FORD RANGER 4X4 crew cab pick up air /con white 15,000 miles fsh £7995
AUG 01	VOLKSWAGEN TRANSPORTER 2.5 tdi syncro 4x4 van £4995

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JAN 05	VOLKSWAGEN LT 35 MWB 3 metre HI TOP 2.5 TD 109 PS 55,000 MILES £8995
SEP 04	FORD TRANSIT 350 2.4 tdi 135 ps lwb med roof blue 6 speed choice off 2 £8495
MAY 04	FORD TRANSIT 350 lwb med roof 2.4 td 90 ps white £7995
JUN 04	FORD TRANSIT 350 lwb hi top 2.4 td 90 ps white choice off 2 from £7995
SEP 05	CITROEN RELAY 1800 LWB HI TOP 2.2 HDI E/W CD WHITEFROM 44k MILES FROM £7850
JUN 05	CITROEN RELAY 1800 LWB HI TOP 2.2 HDI E/W CD 51,000 MILES £7495
DEC 03	FORD TRANSIT 350 mwb 2.4 td 90 ps hi top 45,000 miles £6995
NOV 02	FORD TRANSIT 350 2.4 td 90 ps mwb l/roof £4995

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APR 05	FORD TRANSIT 350 2.4 td 90 ps 10'6" alloy tipper 39,000 miles white £11500
SEP 04	FORD TRANSIT 350 2.4 td 90 ps alloy drop side tipper white 32,000 miles £10995
APR 05	FORD TRANSIT 350 2.4 TD 115 PS LWB DROPSIDE TRUCK WHITE 31,000 MILES £10995
JAN 05	FORD TRANSIT 350 lwb 2.4 td 90 ps crew cab tipper £10495
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JUN 02	FORD TRANSIT 350 2.4 TD 90 PS CREW CAB ALLOY TRUCK £7495
SEP 01	FORD TRANSIT 350 2.4 td 90 ps crew cab tipper £6995
MAY 99	RENAULT MASTER T35 2.5 dci 12'8" alloy drop side truck £3995
NOV 99	DAIHATSU HI JET 1.3 p drop side truck 49,000 miles ex council white £2750

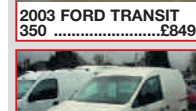
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MAR 06	FORD CONNECT T200 1.8 tdi swb white 16,000 miles £6995
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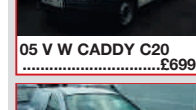
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AUDI

A4, 2.0 TDI TDV S Line 5dr, abs, alarm, traction control, e/w, black, 15900 miles, £22299, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

A4, 2.4 Sport Cabriolet Auto, 03, gold met, 88k miles, £13950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

A4, 2.5 Quattro Sport 6 Speed Manual, 2003, grey with grey leather, 85000 miles, £13950, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

A4, 2.4 sport cabriolet auto, 2003, gold met with black leather, 88000 miles, £13950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

A4, 2.5 Quattro Sport 6 speed manual, 2003, grey with grey leather, 85000 miles, £9995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

BENTLEY

CONTINENTAL GT, 2005, arena red metallic with saddle leather interior, 28000 miles, £69950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, 325ci coupe manual, 2002, topaz blue met with anthracite cloth and leather, 49000 miles, £10950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 325ci sport convertible, 2004, black with black sport leather, 96000 miles, £12950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 335i coupe automatic, 2006, silver met with black leather, 8000 miles, £31950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

KALOS, 1.4 SX, 24637, finished in poly silver with grey interior manual, grey, 0 miles, £5995, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.2 S, 133639, manual, red, 1000 miles, £6295, caffyns chevrolet t wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

LACETTI, Sport 1.8, 2004, silver, 23612 miles, £5995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

MATIZ, SE A/C, 116639, finished in super red with red interior manual, red, 1000 miles, £5995, caffyns chevrolet t wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

MATIZ, FLAIR 10, 118639, finished in jazz blue with black interior manual, black, 1000 miles, £5895, caffyns chevrolet t wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

MATIZ, SE 1.0 A, 119639, finished in poly silver with black interior manual, black, 1000 miles, £5695, caffyns chevrolet t wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

TACUMA, 1.6SX, 233639, finished in poly silver with silver interior manual, silver, 1000 miles, £8995, caffyns chevrolet t wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

CITROEN

BERLINGO, 600 Van 1.9, 2006, 600 van 1.9 diesel, passion red, 19209 miles, £5995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 600d LX Van 1.9, 2006, 600d lx van 1.9 diesel, polar white, 7500 miles, £6195, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

BERLINGO MULTISPACE, 2005, 2.0hdi 90 desire 5dr dsl est, wicked red, 19751 miles, £7695, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C-CROSSER, 2.2 HDi Exclusive 5dr, 2007, 2.2 hdi exclusive 5dr diesel estate, purplish grey, 1000 miles, £23495, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C-CROSSER, 2.2 HDi Exclusive 5dr, 2007, 2.2 hdi exclusive 5dr diesel estate, deep blue, 1000 miles, £22995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C2, 1.1i Cool 3dr, 1.1i cool 3dr hatch sp eds, sunshine yellow, 1000 miles, £6995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C2, 1.4 HDi SX 3dr, 2006, 1.4 hdi sx 3dr diesel hatch, silver, 9200 miles, Wilmoths Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C2, 1.4i Cool 3dr, 2007, 1.4i cool 3dr hatch sp eds, poseidon blue, 1000 miles, £7995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i Desire 5dr, 2004, 1.4i desire 5dr hatch special edition, blue, 21924 miles, £6495, Wilmoths Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C3, 1.6i 16V Exclusive 5dr, 2002, 1.6i 5dr hatch, mauve, 41000 miles, £5995, Wilmoths Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C3, 2004, a/con cd c/lock e/wind, silver, 16050 miles, £5795, WJ King Vauxhall, Woolwich, 020 8854 8161 (TRADE)

XSARA PICASSO, 2004, 1.6i desire 5dr estate, green, 21500 miles, £6995, Barretts Citroen, Canterbury, 0845 3709768 (TRADE)

XSARA PICASSO, 2006, 1.6 hdi desire 5dr diesel estate, arctic steel, 9620 miles, £10495, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

XSARA PICASSO, 2007, 1.6i 16v desire 5dr estate, arctic steel, 3000 miles, £9495, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

XSARA PICASSO, 2003, 1.8i 16v sx 5dr estate, grey, 0 miles, £6295, Wilmoths Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

XSARA PICASSO, 2004, 1.6i desire 5dr estate, silver, 26000 miles, £7295, Wilmoths Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

XSARA PICASSO, 2005, 1.6i desire 5dr estate, blue, 23000 miles, £7995, Wilmoths Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

DAEWOO

DAEWOO NUBIRA 4 DOOR SALOON, 06 2000, 1.6 p se mot july 08, 0 miles, £500, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

KALOS, 2004, c/lock e/wind, silver, 20380 miles, £3995, WJ King Vauxhall, Woolwich, 020 8854 8161 (TRADE)

LACETTI, SX 1.6, 25637, finished in mint green with black interior manual, black, 0 miles, £4995, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

DAIHATSU

GRAND MOVE, v328hj, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, red, 45000 miles, £2699, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

SIRION, S 1.0, 2006, blue, 11822 miles, £6925, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

FIAT

FIAT SCUDO SX DYNAMIC, 09 2006, 2.0 jtd 3 seats twin doors elec window air/con white 38.000 miles, £8495, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.9 MultiJet 16V 150 Sport, 2915256, choice of colours, 0 miles, £13795, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

CROMA, 1.9 16v MultiJet Eleganza, 55256, choice of colours, 0 miles, £12033, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

DOBLO, 1.4 Active, 62256, choice of colours, £7995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

DOBLO, 1.3 16v MultiJet Active, 63256, choice of colours, 0 miles, £8895, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.2 Active 5dr, 119750127, abs, air bag, twin air bags, central locking, electric front windows, rear wash/wipe, grey met, 28055 miles, £4799, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.2 Active 3dr, 119766127, abs, silver, 5112 miles, £5499, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.2 Active 5dr, 119826127, abs, air bag, twin air bags, central locking, electric front windows, rear wash/wipe, demetri green met, 14986 miles, £4999, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

FORD

FORD CONNECT T200, 05 2004, 1.8 tdc1 90 ps swb white 81.000 miles, £3995, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FORD TRANSIT 350 LWB, 01 2005, 2.4 td 90 ps crew cab tipper 62.000 miles fsh, £10495, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FORD TRANSIT 350 LWB, 09 2004, 2.4 tdc1 135 ps med roof blue 6 speed fsh, 0 miles, £8995, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6TDci Titanium 110 5dr (DPF) (2007 -), 20/04/2007, cd player abs electric sunroof alarm driver airbag power steering immobiliser cruise control electric windows, blue, 1793 miles, £15999, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 01233 504400 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 2.0TDCi Zetec 5dr (2007), 29/05/2007, cd player abs alarm driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, silver, 4626 miles, £14999, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 01233 504400 (TRADE)

ESCORT, Estate Ghia, 1998, silver, 57205 miles, £1495, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

ESCORT, Lx 1.8, 1998, silver, 100844 miles, £1495, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

ESCORT, 1.6 Finesse 5dr, 20/01/2000, driver airbag immobiliser red, 51158 miles, £2299, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

HONDA

CIVIC, tornado 1.4 i, 1998, turquoise, 107000 miles, £1895, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 2002, a/con alloys e/wind c/lock cd, ultra blue, 28275 miles, £5195, WJ King Vauxhall, Farningham, 01322 862366 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 2002, a/con alloys s/roof cd e/wind, green, 33170 miles, £5995, WJ King Vauxhall, Welling, 020 8303 1234 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 2002, cd c/lock e/wind pas a/bag, silver, 41900 miles, £4995, WJ King Vauxhall, Woolwich, 020 8854 8161 (TRADE)

JAZZ, Se, 77649, honda jazz se honda honda maidstone drake & fletcher milano red, 2006, 8500 miles, manual, petrol, 5 doors, 1 previous owners, red, £8950, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

MG

MGF, 1.8i V V C, 1999, blue, 92154 miles, £3995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)MGF, F I Sports, 10011578, red, 73008 miles, £2595, Saunders Abbott, Sidcup, 020 8300 2450 (TRADE)

TF, 115 Sports, hv54 dwd, alarm, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, adjustable steering column, electric windows, radio cassette, power steering, air bag, abs, alloy wheels, silver, 13200 miles, £7495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

ZR, 1.4 105 3dr, 06/09/2003, cd player alarm driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, red, 24000 miles, £4999, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 01843 853555 (TRADE)

ZS, + 1.8, 2002, silver, 41124 miles, £4495, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 1.6 3DR, 2003, trim: part leather engine size: 1600 manual, monaco blue, 14000 miles, £9995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

COOPER, 1.6, 170649, mini cooper 1.6 3dr mazda mazda Tunbridge Wells drake & fletcher yellow, 2001, 26500 miles, manual, petrol, 3 doors, 1 previous owners, yellow, £8395, Drake and Fletcher Mazda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

PEUGEOT EXPERT 815, 12 2004, 1.9d 3 seats twin doors lined 74.000 miles fsh, £5400, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT EXPERT 815, 07 2004, 1.9d 3 seats twin doors white 54.000 miles, £5650, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

807, 2.0 GLX 7-seater, 2003, silver with grey high velour, 48000 miles, £6995, IJM Motors, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

RENAULT

RENAULT KANGOO 655, 04 1999, 1.9d white 77.000 miles, £1500, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

RENAULT KANGOO SL 17 70, 10 2004, 1.5 dci side door blue 19.000 miles, £4995, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

CLIO, 2006, a/con alloys cd s/roof pas, blue, 11642 miles, £9495, WJ King Vauxhall, Bromley, 020 8464 3456 (TRADE)

CLIO, 2004, alloys cd s/roof e/wind pas, silver, 35921 miles, £5495, WJ King Vauxhall, Woolwich, 020 8854 8161 (TRADE)

ESPACE, EXPRESSION 1.9dci, 2005, trim: cloth engine size: 1900 transmission: manual no. of doors: 5, pearl black, 23912 miles, £10995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

SEAT

IBIZA CHILL, 51, seat ibiza 1.4 51 petrol chill model. climate control air con, power steering, alloy wheels, driver airbag, cassette/radio, electric windows, good condition in, postbox red, 67500 miles, £3000, Kent, 07843588989 (PRIVATE)

IBIZA, 1.9TDI FR 3dr, 01/09/2004, cd player abs black, 38657 miles, £7999, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

SMART

FORFOUR, 1.3PASSI, 132639, silver, 25000 miles, £6495, caffyns chevrolet t wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

FORFOUR, 1.3PASSI, 145639, finished in silver with silver interior manual, silver, 25000 miles, £6495, caffyns chevrolet t wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

FORFOUR, 1.3PASSI, 163639, finished in silver with silver interior £6495, caffyns chevrolet t wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

SUBARU

FORESTER, 2.0 XT Turbo, 2003, blue over silver, 64000 miles, £7995, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

SUZUKI

SUZUKI jimny jlx, 09 2000, 1.2 p auto 4x4 estate red 45.000 miles, £2995, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

ALTO, 1.1 GL Hatchback 5dr, 04/2004, pas alloys fog lights cd player fhs 1061cc 16v, met black, 18000 miles, £3, 995, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

TOYOTA

TOYOTA HI ACE 280 GS D4D, 09 2006, 2.5 td 88 swb white 21.000 miles fsh rear tailgate, £8995, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

TOYOTA HI ACE LWB D4D, 01 2006, 2.5 td met silver 20.000 miles fsh, £8995, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

TOYOTA HI ACE POWERVAN, 03 2000, 2.4d swb gs 3 seats white, 0 miles, £2995, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

COROLLA, 1.6 Vvt I T3, 149649, 5dr 2004, 19000 miles, manual, petrol, 5 doors, 1 previous owners, silver, £7995, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

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350i TASMIN (WEDGE), 1989 (f), 89 (f) tvr 350i convertible, stunning dark met blue coachwork with contrasting cream leather sports trim with blue piping, black mohair soft top, sounds absolutely awesome!! summer bargain at £5995 now £5495 many more quality pre-owned cars for sale on: www.rivieracarsales.co.uk, metallic blue, 70, 000 miles, £5495, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

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AGILA, EXP 1.0, 31637, finished in royal blue with black interior manual, black, 0 miles, £4695, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

AGILA, 2007, pas a/bag e/wind c/lock abs, star silver, 0 miles, £6995, WJ King Vauxhall, Dartford, 01322 227581 (TRADE)

AGILA, 1.2 Design Hatchback 5d 1229cc, 09/2004, air conditioning alloy wheels reverse park sensors service history, silver, 24000 miles, £4, 795, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

AGILA, 2004, c/lock e/wind pas, lilac, 20627 miles, £4995, WJ King Vauxhall, Dartford, 01322 227581 (TRADE)

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Kerry Trim, Assistant Headteacher
Warren Wood community Primary School and language unit
Arethusa Road
Rochester
Kent ME1 2UR
Telephone - (01634) 337227
Email: trimk001@medway.org.uk

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Rivermead
Teacher of general subjects
Salary: MPS + SEN allowance (£1818)
Full Time and permanent
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Closing date: 15 January 2008
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Mrs Karen Watkin,
Office manager
Rivermead School,
Forge Lane
Gillingham
Kent ME7 1UG
Telephone - (01634) 338348
Email: office@rivermead.medway.sch.uk

www.medway.gov.uk/teachingcareers

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£14,160/annum £7.86/hour Shifts covering 1800 annualised hours

You must have excellent customer service skills and be prepared to make a visible contribution to the success of P&O Ferries.

We need smart, intelligent, enthusiastic people who have had experience working with the public, perhaps within the leisure, ferry, airline or retail sectors. Conversational French or another second European language would be an advantage but is not essential, as would previous experience of working on ferries. We will operate a shift roster over a 7-day week and candidates must be able to work on a range of shift patterns that will include some nights.

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Email: nagp&o@newappointmentsgroup.co.uk

P&O Ferries

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**EXTRAORDINARY JOBS.
EXTRAORDINARY WORKPLACE.**

HMYOI Cookham Wood near Rochester is to become an establishment accommodating 15-17 year old young men, commissioned by the Youth Justice Board. It is anticipated that the change of role will take place in January 2008.

**HEAD OF CARE AND REDUCING RE-OFFENDING
£29,184 - £43,927**

As a key member of the Senior Management Team, you will be tasked with developing, implementing and managing the arrangements for the reduction of re-offending. This is an exciting opportunity to work with a new team providing innovative solutions for young people in custody to provide a safe environment for them and to help them break the cycle of re-offending. It is essential that you have a sound knowledge of the resettlement needs of young people being released from custody and a good working knowledge of safeguarding processes. Extensive experience of working with young people is essential and also of managing a multi-disciplinary team. Social work qualifications are desirable.

**CHILD PROTECTION – CO-ORDINATOR
£23,434 - £30,676**

By providing Child Protection advice, guidance and practical support, you will ensure the prison is a safe and child focused environment for the young people. As the main point of contact within the establishment for Child Protection matters, you will advise the Governor, Senior Management Team and other staff on Child Protection policy and practice. It is essential that you hold or be working towards a Social Work qualification and have knowledge of Child Protection legislation and operation in a multi-agency arena. You should also possess an understanding of the complex issues faced by young people in custody. Experience of working with or in a child protection team is desirable, as is experience of policy and procedure writing.

**CASEWORK TEAM LEADER
£23,434 - £30,676**

We require a Team Leader, preferably with casework management experience, to manage the Casework Team who are responsible for the provision of a co-ordinated range of resettlement services for both remand and convicted young people at Cookham Wood and effective resettlement outcomes. You must be able to work in a logical, methodical and organised manner. An understanding of risk-led sentence management and the Youth Justice System, both in the community and in custody is desirable together with knowledge of e-ASSET and the Wiring up Youth Justice Programme.

**NURSE
£19,288 - £23,293**

A nurse with post-registration experience is needed to provide offenders with nursing and healthcare services that promote self care, personal well being and that will enable them to take responsibility for their own health. You must be able to work autonomously within a prison setting and supervise junior members of the team. With evidence of continuing professional development, it is desirable that you have skills in phlebotomy, suturing, triage and minor injuries/illnesses, chronic disease management and experience of working with those that self-harm and crisis intervention for primary care mental health.

**CLEANER
£11,371 - £11,716**

To carry out cleaning services around the prison including carpeted areas, desks, bins and toilets, maintaining a high standard and taking into account Health and Safety issues. Experience is preferable but not essential.

Completed applications should be returned to James Restall, Kent & Sussex Areas Recruitment & Conference Centre, Sir Evelyn Road, Rochester, Kent, ME1 3PZ Tel: 01634 673036 Fax: 01634 673050. Closing date for the return of completed applications is 2nd January 2008.

This post is open to part-time and job share applicants. You will be required to declare whether you are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist. The Prison Service is an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from candidates regardless of ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, age (subject to being within the normal retirement age for the grade), sexual orientation, disability or any other irrelevant factor.

NOMS National Offender Management Service
Working together to reduce re-offending



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Leadership Opportunities

Copart UK are one of the country's leading salvage specialists. From auctions to engineering services, specialist vehicles to prestige motors, Copart is 'a bid above the rest'.

Are you a self-motivated, intelligent, capable, hard working and flexible individual with excellent communication skills? If so, we are currently recruiting the following new vacancies at our branches in Chester, Westbury in Wiltshire, Sandwich in Kent, Sandy in Bedfordshire, Sandtoft in North Lincolnshire and Wootton in Bedfordshire.

Assistant General Manager

You will work closely with the General Manager to ensure the efficient operation of yard facilities, equipment and personnel. You will be involved in all areas of management including, recruitment, staff motivation, productivity, training, auditing, logistics, health & safety, inventory management, etc.

The successful candidates will have existing leadership skills and experience. They will be excellent time managers who understand the need to exceed customer expectations. With a hands on, 'get stuck in' approach, they will be committed to taking a leading role in Copart's future.

Management Trainees

You will be expected to learn about every area of the branch, including: customer calls, office processes, customer vehicle pick-up, storage, sale and delivery processes, yard operations, record keeping, etc.

This position would suit a positive, proactive, and capable individual who's not afraid to get their hands dirty whilst they train to be a leader of the future.

Both positions involve UK travel, and are rewarded with competitive salary and benefits packages.

Applications are invited from all sectors as full training will be provided.

Interested? Please send your CV and covering letter, including salary expectations and preferred location, to Lydia Edwards, Copart UK, Acrey Fields, Woburn Road, Wootton, Bedfordshire, MK43 9EJ or email lydia.edwards@copart.co.uk

Closing date: Friday, 28 December 2007



To advertise in this section  **01303 817040**



With the Port of Dover at the East of the county, Kent has a significant number of children and young people arriving in the country and claiming asylum as separated children. These are Looked After Children and therefore supported into independence as Care Leavers.

The Service for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (SUASC) is responsible for assessing their needs and providing services, as a specialist countywide provision within the Children, Families and Education Directorate.

Team Leader

West Kent Ref: CFE/07/0443

Starting salary £36,245 per annum, with progression through contribution related pay to £41,881 per annum

Practice Supervisor

East Kent Ref: CFE/07/0444

Starting salary £32,779 per annum, with progression through contribution related pay to £39,712 per annum

Senior Practitioner

East Kent Ref: CFE/07/0445

Starting salary £32,779 per annum, with progression through contribution related pay to £39,712 per annum

Social Worker

East Kent Ref: CFE/07/446

£22,268 – £39,712 per annum (salary dependent on experience and progression through the Career Grade is based on the fulfillment of required competencies)

Young Persons Community Support Worker

East Kent Ref: CFE/07/447

Starting salary £22,268 per annum, with progression through contribution related pay to £25,521 per annum

You will have a variety of skill mix and abilities, commitment and drive, a positive attitude to multi-agency assessment, best practice principles and an ability to enable young people who come from many parts of the world, to achieve their potential.

As part of our Staff Care Package we offer a comprehensive induction programme, significant investment in training and career development, health checks, an international exchange programme and flexible working. We've earned our 3 star rating by retaining excellent staff who provide an excellent service.

These posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure application to the Criminal Records Bureau and (with the exception of the Young Persons Community Support Worker) to registration as a qualified social worker with the General Social Care Council.

Closing date: midday, 19 December 2007.

Staff Officer to Managing Director

Starting salary £34,507, with progression through contribution related pay to £39,712 per annum

Sessions House, Maidstone Ref: CFE/07/448

Following promotion of the previous post holder, an excellent career opportunity has arisen for an organised individual to provide high level support to CFE's Managing Director.

Providing comprehensive, co-ordinated and effective support, you will arrange and support senior meetings of CFE's SMT, EMT and Cabinet Members as well as organising events and meetings with external partners. To support these actions, you will have direct line management for the MD's Office team.

With experience of operating in a demanding, politically sensitive environment, you will have an awareness of the mechanics of the operation of local government, experience of managing people and preferably have an understanding of the role of Children's Services.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

Closing date: midday, 17 December 2007.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote the appropriate reference number.



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KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services. Founded in 1975 and currently employing over 300 paid and unpaid staff, it has an annual budget of £11 million and is becoming established as one of the leading service providers in the South East Region.



REF: 457 - TRAINER - FAVERSHAM
Salary: £22,122 - £28,172 (SCP 27-35) pro rata
15 hours per week
Essential Car User Allowance

The focus of this role will be to facilitate/deliver a range of training courses/modules to staff, volunteers (and potentially external organisations). This will primarily be related to drugs and alcohol, but will include a range of associated issues. You will have specific responsibility for delivering CBT, Motivational Interviewing & Brief Solution Focused Therapy. Therefore a counselling/clinical psychology qualification would be desirable. This is an exciting time for KCA (UK) as we strive to meet the challenges of continued expansion/diversification and the implementation of DANOS and National Open College Network Accredited Training.

You should be an experienced drug and alcohol practitioner and preferably have experience of providing training in the field.

For application forms and further information, contact: KCA (UK),
Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT.
Telephone 01795 590635, Fax 01795 539351
Email marina@kca.org.uk, website www.kca.org.uk.

Closing date: Friday 14th December 2007 at 12.00 noon
Interview date: Tuesday 8th January 2008

KCA(UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.
Charity No: 292824

Planning & Communities

Telecare Support Officer

£20,004 to £24,444 + car allowance

Shepway Lifeline Service is seeking to strengthen its team by recruiting a further Telecare Customer Support Officer.

Working under the direction and guidance of the Service Advisor Team Leader you will respond to Lifeline and Telecare enquiries from both private individuals as well as our partners in Health and Social Services.

To succeed in this demanding role you will be proactive in your approach and have a flexible "can do" attitude, as well as an ability to prioritise workloads. Experience with Telecare/Lifeline systems and working with vulnerable groups and individuals will be advantageous.

An interest in technological issues within this industry and a keenness to resolve problems and give all support to our clients is a pre-requisite for this post. Additionally a demonstrable interest in marketing and promotion will add impetus to this role and would bring a positive contribution to our service provision.

According to the demands of the service there may be occasions when you will be required to work in the evenings or at weekends, this however will not be the norm.

If you wish to know more or visit the Control Centre, contact Ed Tingley on 07771 772315. Alternatively you may contact Shelley Squence or Angela Vince on 01303 242971.

Application details can be downloaded at www.shepway.gov.uk or email jobs@shepway.gov.uk alternatively call our 24 hour answerphone service on 01303 853481.

The closing date for completed application forms is Friday 21 December 2007.

Folkestone

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Shepway District Council



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Equal Opportunities Employer and
welcomes applications irrespective of
race, colour, age, sex or disability.*



the University of Greenwich at Medway

CONTRACTS MANAGER (FIXED TERM)

Ref: 00870/K3

A dynamic, self motivated individual is required to contract manage all LLN (Lifelong Learning Network) funded activities being delivered through partner institutions and other organisations. This new post will be based in the small LLN management team.

If you are a good negotiator with experience of managing and administering complex projects as well as experience of managing contracted-out work, then this might be your opportunity to put your skills to work on a project with five higher education institutions, seven further education colleges and a range of other organisations. You will have good report writing skills, an understanding of complex budgets, be able to analyse and manipulate data using Excel and will have experience of managing or maintaining web-based information. You will also need to have a flexible attitude to work, the ability to work accurately under pressure and as a positive and productive team member.

This post is fixed term to 31 August 2009.

Salary £26,666 - £30,012 per annum

We aim to be an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

To obtain further particulars and an application form visit our website www.gre.ac.uk, email: jobs@gre.ac.uk or write to the Personnel Office, University of Greenwich, Avery Hill Road, London, SE9 2UG quoting the job reference. Applications should be returned by 5:00 pm on 14 December 2007.



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Bed Company, 133 High Street, Strood, Kent, ME2 4TJ
Tel: 01634 722228 **Fax:** 01634 722235
Email: contactus@thecountybedcompany.com
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Your job will also include responding to enquiries generated from
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PA to the Chief Executive

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Strode Park Foundation is a long established registered charity working with people with disabilities and is one of the largest resource centres of its kind in Kent.

This is an exciting opportunity for someone with the right skills to get involved in a demanding PA role. Supporting the Chief Executive and the Council of Management, you will confidently be able to multi task to a highly efficient standard and communicate/liase with people at all levels.

Often the first point of contact for Council of Management members, senior staff, external partners and stakeholder organisations, the post-holder will consistently demonstrate strong interpersonal and communication skills. Vital to this position is the ability to maintain professional standards and to show a flair and enthusiasm for high quality customer service. The postholder will also have responsibility for managing the Foundation's Reception Team.

You will have a proven administrative background and your skills will include:

- Clear and accurate typing (minimum 60wpm).
- Advanced level of Microsoft Office.
- Diary management.
- Complex and accurate minute taking/reporting at Board/Council level.
- Confidence to draft high level correspondence.
- Ability to work to a high standard using your own initiative.

The post is full time (35 hours per week) with occasional out of hours work.

For an application pack, please contact the HR Team, or for an informal discussion about the role contact Paul Montgomery, Chief Executive, both on 01227 373292

Closing date for returned applications: Tuesday 18 December 2007

Interviews will be held during week commencing 7 January 2008.

Strode Park House _ Herne _ Herne Bay _ Kent CT6 7NE

email: info@strodepark.org.uk



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Qualified Teachers - Kent Children's Centres'

Main Professional Grade or Upper Pay Scale:

£20,133 - £29,427 or £31,878 - £34,281 pa

Fringe Scale:

£21,102 - £30,393 or £32,847 - £35,250

plus TLR 2(2) of £3,940 pa

Part or full-time opportunities

In the context of the Government's agenda of rolling out children's centres to cover the country, Kent County Council is seeking to appoint up to 15 full time equivalent qualified early years teachers to work in support of children's centres across Kent. These exciting opportunities will involve working alongside early education and childcare providers in all sectors to promote and support the highest quality care and learning opportunities for children from birth to five.

Kent currently has 20 Children's Centres throughout the county – with plans to increase this to 72 by 2008. Each centre serves approximately 800 children, offering a range of multi-agency services, with a qualified teacher contributing to the strategic development and direction.

You will be outstanding and experienced practitioners, possessing excellent interpersonal and communication skills as these will be crucial to achievement in this significantly multi-agency, cross sector environment.

Kent is seeking to appoint candidates on a part time basis to work in one centre, or alternatively on a full time basis to work across two centres.

These posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

If you would like further information about these posts, please contact in the first instance Stacey Joyce on 01622 626685 or email stacey.joyce@kent.gov.uk

For an application pack, please contact Kym Hobson on 01622 605788 or email: kym.hobson@kent.gov.uk

Please quote the relevant reference for the location(s) you wish to apply for:

Ashford (ref: CFE/07/0454) Canterbury (ref: CFE/07/0455),

Dartford (ref: CFE/07/0456) Gravesham (ref: CFE/07/0457),

Maidstone (ref: CFE/07/0458) Sevenoaks (ref: CFE/07/0459),

Shepway (ref: CFE/07/0460) Swale (ref: CFE/07/0461),

Thanet (ref: CFE/07/0462)

Tonbridge and Malling (ref: CFE/07/0463),

Tunbridge Wells (ref: CFE/07/0464)

Closing date: 3 January 2008

Interviews: w/c 28 January & 4 February 2008



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OTE £20,000

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Hi-tech crime is given low priority, says forum

BUSINESS leaders in computer security have criticised the Government's efforts to tackle online crime.

Members of the Corporate IT Forum, a body of information technology experts, have complained that, since a Government reshuffle of police units, e-crime against companies has been on the increase.

Since the National High Tech Crime Unit was incorporated into the Serious Organised Crime Unit in 2006, local police forces have been given the job of dealing with complex online crimes – a task that security experts say they are under-trained and under resourced to deal with.

David Roberts, chief executive of the Corporate IT Forum, said the resources allocated by the Home Office to tackle electronic crimes were not sufficient.

"It's a practical nonsense," said Mr Roberts.

"You can imagine the response an IT officer would get reporting a complex attack at their local police station – how is your local PC going to cope?"

"It's a damning indictment of how little the Home Office understands 21st-century hi-tech crime."

The criticism comes after a series of security breaches involving Government information systems, the most serious of which was the loss by HM Revenue and Customs of computer disks containing the personal details about 25 million child benefit claimants.

Wheels on the bus set to keep going round

BUS company Stagecoach, which operates services across the county, has reported a nine per cent increase its half-year profits and says that the long-term future for public transport prospects remain positive.

Pre-tax profits rose to £84.6m in the six months to October 31, with revenues up to £821m.

Stagecoach said increasing car congestion and a growing focus on environmental issues would help to attract more passengers to its services, which also include trains.

The company said it planned to spend £71m on 584 new buses across the UK in the immediate future.

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A lifelong passion for chocolate led Kate Blyth to open up her own shop

Poor are victims of exploitation

By NICK AMES

ENERGY companies are exploiting some of society's poorest people, according to an industry watchdog – which has accused them of being "morally bankrupt".

Customers with pre-payment meters are paying hundreds of pounds each year more than those with access to cheaper tariffs.

The meters are most frequently used by people who do not have a bank account and can incur costs of more than £300 above the normal annual rates for electricity and gas.

Meanwhile, those who can pay by direct debit can save almost £200 a year on set fees, says Energywatch.

Chief executive Allan Asher said: "That they should ramp up the rates and exploit those with no access to alternative payment methods is morally bankrupt."

Industry regulator Ofgem said companies looked to install the meters when a customer had problems paying bills.

They are most common in rented accommodation and nationally there are 3.5 million electricity meters and 2.2 million gas ones.

Energywatch has also discovered the numbers being installed are soaring year by year, with some 580,000 new ones set up last year.

The group claims the industry is making close to £300 million a year in revenue from customers on the pre-payment meters.

Recent figures reveal that between 2003 and 2006 gas bills rose by a staggering 94 per cent and electricity costs by 60 per cent.

Last year saw the average home charges top £1,000 for the first time.

Mr Asher said: "Consumers without internet or banking facilities are excluded from better deals. These figures show that the welcome actions by some suppliers to combat fuel



EXPENSIVE: Pre-pay meters are said to be costing users up to £300 a year more than regular energy customers

poverty are offset by the extra costs and poorer service inflicted on those forced into prepayment charges.

"Another industry where the poor are exploited is the personal credit market, where poorer people are forced to pay much higher rates of interest. Energy companies, who are providing essential-for-life services, should take no comfort from such a comparison."

But the body representing suppliers defended the use of the meters saying they gave cus-

tomers more control over the amount of energy they use.

Duncan Sedgwick, chief executive of the Energy Retail Association, said equalising tariffs would be "a blunt instrument to tackle a much more complex issue".

He claimed the real issue was how best to look after the interests of poor and vulnerable consumers, and a raft of measures were in place to do this, including grants for free insulation and financial help for those in debt.

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League games beat the rain

THE Ashford & District Sunday League continued last weekend despite atrocious weather conditions.

In division one, only two games kicked off due to the torrential rain. Smarden Trojgs kept their push for promotion moving in the right direction with a 4-2 win against Charing. Goals from George Dyke, Marcus Pearce and Paul Newman secured the win. Henry Palmer's two goals were not enough for Charing as they slumped to another defeat.

The game at Lydd between Grasshoppers and Bocca was abandoned mid-way through the first half due to a waterlogged pitch.

In the Division Four Cup, only three games finished and the pick of the ties included Ashford Spartans 3-0 win against Charing reserves. The result booked their place in the semi-finals thanks to two goals from Nathan Piggott and one from Ben Hearnden.

In the Kent Sunday Junior Trophy, Newchurch lost to Waterfront 6-0.

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Action from an exciting clash for the Invicta Dynamos at Gillingham Ice Bowl

Green hopeful form will go on

BROMLEY Green maintained their unbeaten start to the season in the Towers Super Sixes six-a-side league last Thursday, with a 7-3 win against third-placed Ashford Warriors.

Top of the league Bromley Green will hope to continue their unbeaten run, when they take on Hopefuls.

Also from division one, Bradbourne lost 2-1 to struggling PGC, which has relegated Bradbourne and they will be playing division two football next season.

Mean Machine are leading division two by goal difference following their 2-0 win against Annascul Allstars. They will hope to extend their lead when they face third-placed Dynamo Szyslek this week.



CHALLENGE: Sidecar champions Tim Reeves and Patrick Farrance are ready to take up an opportunity to compete in the gruelling Isle of Man TT next year

Reeves' race towards danger in Isle of Man

THREE time World Sidecar Champion Tim Reeves will embark on a fresh challenge next year in the most dangerous and daunting event in the motorsport calendar – the Isle of Man TT.

Tenterden racer Reeves and passenger Patrick Farrance have had their most successful season to date, picking up the British, World and Team Championship this term.

After the trio of awards, Reeves was offered an opportunity to race as part of TT racer Steve Webster's team next season in one of the world's most famous motorcycle events.

Motorsport legends such as John Surtees and Carl Fogarty have battled around the notorious 37.7 mile road course to become TT champions in the past.

A delighted Reeves said: "To win three World Championships was excellent, but racing in the

SIDECAR RACING

■ BY TOM HOWARD

Isle of Man TT is something I am really excited about. I got a really good offer which I couldn't refuse. I will be riding a competitive bike which will be custom-made. It is not a quick as my F1 bike but it is much stronger. Steve Webster has built the bike and I can't wait to try it out on the Isle of Man course. I have done ten laps of the course and have been practising on the PlayStation. I think I know the first five or six miles."

Last year the event claimed the lives of racer Marc Ramsbotham and two spectators, which shows just how lethal the course can be.

He said: "It is a dangerous event but I am not going to go there and not give it 100 per cent."

In order to race this prestigious event, Reeves

will need to acquire a special licence. To do this, he will have to complete six races in the sidecar F2 championship as well as his World and British F1 sidecar commitments. This week he will be travelling to Spain to test his new F2 machine to get used to the difference of a slower bike.

He said: "It is going to be a very busy season. If the races in the F2 championship go well I will do the whole season."

Reeves has added to his titles this year by picking up the BBC South East Sports Personality of the Year.

He added: "It was an unbelievable feeling to be named sports personality. I was shocked when they called my name out. It was a fantastic evening and it really finished off a brilliant year for me especially as this was voted by the public."

Reeves will begin his assault on the TT course in search of another title to add to his collection, when the week-long event begins on May 31.



VICTORIOUS: Ashford sailing star Sophie Ainsworth and her partner Sophie Weguelin do battle on the high seas

Girls hit wave of success

SAILING double act Sophie Weguelin and Sophie Ainsworth are celebrating once again after landing the Marlow Ropes Award.

Ainsworth, from Ashford and Weguelin from Hampshire have had a year to remember, as they picked up the ladies and under-19 World 29er Championship in Argentina early this year.

The duo have also been invited to become part of the RYA Olympic Development Squad, as well as securing a silver medal in the World Youth Sailing Championships.

The pair were delighted to hear the award will guarantee them a

SAILING

year's supply of rope for next season's 470 class campaign; a step up in competition which means they will be racing a bigger vessel this year.

Weguelin said: "The Marlow Ropes Award will help us a lot. It means we don't have to worry about things breaking and worrying about the cost of having to replace the rope."

The duo's dream is to follow in the footsteps of Olympic winners Sarah Ayton, Sarah Webb and Shirley Robertson and become Olympic champions.

Ainsworth said: "Getting to grips with the new boat has been our biggest challenge so far and will continue to be our main goal throughout 2008. The 470 is a lot more technical than anything we have sailed before. We have also been putting a lot of time in at the gym because it can be very physical. Things are going as well as we could have hoped. We are starting to understand the boat better. Everyone in the 470 squad has made us feel welcome and we have really enjoyed our experience so far."

Next season they will do battle on the high seas in search of the 470 crown.



DEFEATED: Ashford were unable to extend their winning run to three games after suffering a 12-0 defeat to promotion hopefuls Gillingham Anchorians amid miserable weather conditions

Anchorians drop defeat on Ashford

IN wet and windy conditions at Kinney's Field, Ashford fell to their sixth defeat of the season at the hands of Gillingham Anchorians.

The home side went into the game on the back of two consecutive wins and were hoping to make it three, but were thwarted by a strong Anchorians outfit.

The conditions played their part in the first half, with the game interrupted after a succession of knock-ons. Neither side managed to piece together a try-threatening attack and the sides went in at half-time with the scores level at 0-0.

Ashford kicked off with the wind in their

RUGBY

BY YOURASHFORD REPORTER

Ashford 0 Gillingham Anchorians 12

favour and hoping to capitalise, and immediately put Gillingham under pressure in their 22. However, the home side let Anchorians off the hook by giving away needless penalties.

Mid-way through the half the visitors got the breakthrough. From a line-out inside Ashford's 22, the Anchorians collected the ball and drove forward and the number eight pow-

ered over the line.

Ashford responded by giving the ball to the wingers and running at the Anchorians defence. The visitors defence held firm and halted any progress made by the Ashford backs.

In the dying minutes, Gillingham scored a second try which sealed Ashford's fate. In an almost identical move, the Anchorians' pack drove over the Ashford line to score in the corner. The fly-half added the conversion to make the final score 0-12.

This Saturday, Ashford will have to up their game if they are to get a result, when they face Sittingbourne who are fourth in Kent One.

Nuts and Bolts fail to tighten with signings

FOOTBALL

Dulwich Hamlet 1 Ashford Town 0

A GOAL five minutes from time proved too much for Steve Lovell's Ashford Town, as they slumped to their 12th defeat of the season.

It has been over a month since the Nuts and Bolts secured their last victory, which was former manager Clive Walker's last game in charge – against Whitstable Town.

New signing Lee Hockey from Sittingbourne was drafted straight into the side, but his performance could not halt Dulwich Hamlet who managed to claim all three points.

Despite the loss, Lovell is upbeat about his squad following the two new signings of Hockey and Ryan Peters that were made last week.

Lovell said: "Hockey is a utility player who has been with me when I was in charge of

Sittingbourne. I think his best position is centre-back or in the midfield. I have a squad of 20 players now and in my eyes they are all on a season's trial. If they do well, they will stay at the club next season. We have still got 25 games to go and plenty of time to move up the league."

However, coupled with the two new faces coming in at The Homelands, central defender Rob Gillman left the club last week. Gillman has only been at the club since the summer and has played a pivotal role in the Town defence.

Lovell added: "Gillman just wanted to leave. It is very hard to keep players at the club if they do not want to be here."

Lovell will hope to get his first win in charge of Ashford, when his side face Chatham Town at The Homelands this Saturday. A win for the Nuts and Bolts could see them rise above their Kent rivals.



DEPARTED: Defender Rob Gillman left The Homelands this week, but Lovell has signed Lee Hockey as cover

yourashford

SPORT IN BRIEF

Draw brings to a close Ashford's winning streak

HONOURS were even at Ball Lane as Ashford Hockey Club 1st XI's 100 per cent start to the season was dented by the strong defence of Worthing.

Ashford had their chances on a rain-soaked pitch, but just couldn't find the back of the net as they drew 0-0.

The result means Ashford extend their lead in the Kent & Sussex Regional League to five points. They will hope to get back to winning ways when the league reconvenes.

Town mourn over death of Barry Cunningham

FANS of Ashford Town will mourn the loss of former player Barry Cunningham this week after he lost his battle with cancer.

Cunningham was a promising footballer and had trials with QPR, Portsmouth and Southampton before settling at Ashford Town. He played his first game for Ashford Town reserves in 2001 and was a regular in the 2004 squad. The 29-year-old lost his fight with bowel cancer, which he was diagnosed with in 2006.

Ladies tried but were defeated by Beckenham

JUST one try proved enough for Beckenham Ladies, which condemned Ashford Ladies RFC to their third defeat of the season.

After a two week break, the ladies hoped to get their season back on track with another win. However, the Beckenham defence proved too strong and Ashford could not get on the scoresheet as the game finished 5-0. The ladies have a break from rugby and will begin again on January 13 against Old Albanians.

Hockey success despite damp, wet conditions

ASHFORD ladies' hockey teams had a successful weekend despite the terrible weather conditions.

The 1st XI notched their sixth win of the season with a 2-1 win against Bexley & Belvedere, which moves them to fourth in the Kent Premier Division.

A 1-0 victory for the 2nd XI against top of the league Holcombe, closed the deficit to just a point between the two sides. The 3rd XI completed a hat-trick of wins with a 2-1 victory against Blackheath. The 2nd XI beat top of the table Holcombe 1-0, while the 3rd XI beat Blackheath 2-1.

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Gills boss Mark Stimson outlines his plans for January transfers

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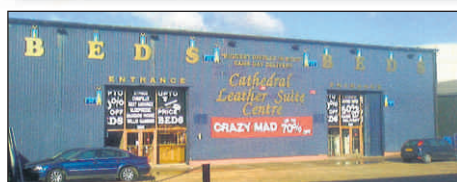
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